

ARMY NAVY GAZETTE OF THE REGULAR JOURNAL. AND VOLUNTEER FORCES.



VOLUME XVI.—NUMBER 18
WHOLE NUMBER 798.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1878

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221

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221

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In Fall Meeting of N. R. A. at Creedmoor, **SHARPS** Rifles entered in SIXTEEN Matches, took first prize in twelve of them, and good prizes in the other four. Among them the

INTER-STATE MILITARY MATCH.

The New York State Team, using Sharps Military Rifle, won with a score of.....	974
Best score with other Rifles.....	960

THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY MATCH.

New York State Team, with Sharps Rifles, won with a score of.....	1044
Best with other Rifles.....	1008

THE INTER-STATE LONG RANGE MATCH.

Average per man using Sharps Rifles.....	918
Other Rifles used averaged.....	198 and 197

THE WIMBLEDON CUP.

Won by Mr. Frank Hyde with a Sharps Long Range Rifle, with a score of 148 out of 150 at 1,000 yards. (The LEECH CUP with same Rifle at Spring Meeting was won with a score of 305 points against best score by any other rifle of 197.) For the Grand Aggregate Prize three competitors, Mr. F. Hyde, Col. H. F. Clark and Capt. W. H. Jackson, all using SHARPS, tied on a score of 800.

THE LONG RANGE MILITARY CHAMPIONSHIP.

First Prize won by Capt. J. S. Barton with a Sharps. *All prizes in this match were won with SHARPS Rifles.*

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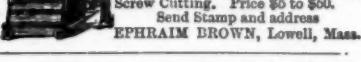


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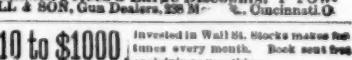


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ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

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PUBLICATION OFFICE, 245 BROADWAY.
SUBSCRIPTION, SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

THE ARMY.

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Colonel Randolph B. Marcy, Inspector-General.

Brig.-Gen. Wm. M. Dutton, Judge-Advocate-General.

Colonel Albert J. Myer, Chief Signal Officer.

Brig.-Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster-General.

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Bridgadier-General Jos. K. Barnes, Surgeon-General.

Bridgadier-General Benj. Alvord, Paymaster-General.

Bridgadier-General And. A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers.

Bridgadier-General Stephen V. Benét, Chief of Ordnance.

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Capt. J. M. Sano, 7th Inf.

Capt. D. H. Murdock, 6th Inf.

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ABSTRACT OF IMPORTANT ORDERS.

The following is published for the information of the Army:

I. Smoking, as well as chewing, tobacco may be furnished to troops under the requirements of section 1149, Revised Statutes, but not exceeding sixteen ounces of tobacco per month can be furnished, the grade and quality to be fixed by the Commissary General of Subsistence.

II. The necessary candles, lard or sperm oil, for lighting evening schools, post libraries, reading rooms, and chapels, authorized by G. O. 24, H. Q. A., A.-G. O. e. s., will be furnished by the Subsistence Department, on requisitions approved by post commanders (G. O. 24, Nov. 25, H. Q. A.)

By direction of the Secretary of War, the uniform and dress of officers of the Signal Corps will be the same as that for the Chief Signal Officer, the usual distinction being made for the grades.

The distinctive insignia on the cap and shoulder knot will be according to the pattern deposited in the office of the Chief Signal Officer (G. O. 86, Dec. 3, H. Q. A.)

STAFF CORPS AND DEPARTMENTS.

Lieut.-Col. Absalom Baird, Asst. Insp.-General, will proceed to Milwaukee, Wis.; Jeffersonville and Indianapolis, Ind.; Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio; for the purpose of inspecting the accounts of disbursing officers at those places; upon the completion of which he will return to these Hdqrs (S. O. 97, Nov. 27, M. D. M.)

Lieut.-Col. John Campbell, Surg.; Major Geo. Bell, C. S.; Major William B. Rochester, P. D.; Capt. John Brooke, A. Surg., and 1st Lieut. Charles Shaler, Ord. Dept., members G. C. M. Newport Bks. Ky., Nov. 30 (S. O. 88, Nov. 27, D. S.)

Lieut.-Col. Charles H. Tompkins, Deputy Q. M. Gen., is relieved from duty as Acting Chief Q. M. of the Division, and will proceed to his proper station, St. Paul, Minn. (S. O. 98, Dec. 2, M. D. M.)

The following changes in the stations and duties of officers of the Corps of Engineers are made: Major John M. Wilson, having complied with S. O. 193, Sept. 6, 1878, from this office, will relieve Lieut.-Col. Nathaniel Michler of all the harbor improvements in his charge, and Major Walter McFarland of the charge of the harbors of Cleveland, Fairport, Ashtabula, Conneaut, and Erie, taking station at Cleveland, Ohio. Capt. M. B. Adams is relieved from duty under Major McFarland, and will report to Major Wilson at Cleveland, Ohio, for duty under his orders (S. O. Nov. 29, W. D. M.)

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The journey performed by Major William H. Eckels, P. D., on public business, from Junction (M. and M. R. R.) to Mobile, Ala., and return, between the 21st and 24th instants, is approved (S. O. 87, Nov. 26, D. S.)

Major Richard N. Batchelder, Q. M., is announced as Division Disbursing Q. M. and in charge of the General Depot in San Francisco, created by G. O. 75, H. Q. A., A.-G. O. (G. O. 9, Nov. 18, M. D. P.)

Major J. R. Gibson, member Board of Survey convened at Cheyenne Agency, by S. O. 59, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 108, Nov. 25, D. P.)

Capt. James F. Gregory, C. E., is relieved from duty with the Battalion of Engineers, and will report to the Lieutenant-General, commanding Mil. Div. of the Mo., for duty as Chief Engineer of that Division (S. O. Nov. 26, W. D.)

The telegraphic instructions of the 21st ultimo, from these Hdqrs, directing Major F. M. Cox, P. D., to report at these Hdqrs via Galveston, Texas, for the purpose of providing for his next pay trip, and to return to his proper station by same route, are confirmed (S. O. 247, Nov. 21, D. T.)

Major R. H. Towler, P. D., is relieved from duty at Camp Lowell, A. T., and will take station at Fort Yuma, Cal. Major C. C. Sniffin, P. D., is assigned to duty at Camp Lowell, A. T. (S. O. 188, Nov. 19, D. A.)

Capt. G. P. Jaquette, M. D., member G. C. M. Fort Barrancas, Fla., Dec. 5 (S. O. 92, Dec. 2, D. S.)

Capt. George W. Bradley, A. Q. M., will turn over the public funds and property for which he is responsible as Disbursing and Acting Depot Q. M. to Major Richard N. Batchelder, Q. M., who has reported to the Division Commander in charge of the General Depot of the Q. M. Dept. at San Francisco as Disbursing Q. M. (S. O. 173, Nov. 18, M. D. P.)

Capt. J. H. Belcher, A. Q. M., having been relieved of his duties as Chief Q. M. District of New Mexico, by 1st Lieut. L. H. Rucker, R. Q. M., 9th Cavalry, will proceed to comply with S. O. 281, c. a., from H. Q. A., A.-G. O., in his case (S. O. 105, Nov. 23, D. N. M.)

Capt. D. Weisel, Asst. Surg., member G. C. M. Fort Canby, Wash. T., Nov. 25 (S. O. 188, Nov. 18, D. C.)

The telegraphic instructions from this Hdqrs, dated the 15th instant, directing 1st Lieut. Charles Shaler, Ord. Dept., to go to Augusta, Ga., in connection with the duty devolved upon him by par. 2 of Dept. S. O. 77, c. a., are confirmed. Also he will re-visit Paris, Ky., in connection with the same duty (S. O. 86, Nov. 25, D. S.)

1st Lieut. H. O. Paulding, M. D., will be relieved from duty at Fort A. Lincoln upon receipt of this order, and will then proceed to Cheyenne Agency, D. T., for duty as post surgeon. Upon the arrival of 1st Lieut. D. B. Taylor, M. D., at Fort A. Lincoln, A. A. Surg. Ralph Bell will be relieved from duty there, and will proceed to Camp Ruhlen, D. T., for

duty at that station. A. A. Surg. C. C. Miller will be relieved from duty at Fort A. Lincoln upon receipt of this order, and will proceed to Red Cloud Agency, D. T., for duty at that station. Upon the arrival of Surg. Miller at Red Cloud Agency, A. A. Surg. V. T. McGillycuddy will be relieved from duty therewith. The C. O. of that post will then annul the contract of Surg. McGillycuddy, at his own request, and report the date of annulment to these Hdqrs (S. O. 140, Nov. 25, D. D.)

A. A. Surg. E. P. Lecompte, now on duty with the Battalion 5th Cavalry, at Fort Hall Agency, Idaho, will accompany the Battalion in its return to the railroad, whence he will proceed to Camp Douglas, U. T., and report for duty (S. O. 107, Nov. 21, D. P.)

A. Surg. W. S. Tremaine and A. A. Surg. T. A. Davis, will proceed from Fort Dodge, Kas., and A. Surg. J. A. Finley from Fort Wallace to this point, in time to report as witnesses, on the 2d proximo, to 1st Lieut. W. J. Volkmar, 5th Cavalry, A. D. C., Recorder of the Retiring Board constituted by par. 6 of S. O. 208, H. Q. A. (S. O. 214, Nov. 25, D. M.)

A. A. Surg. C. H. Shriner will proceed from Fort Leavenworth, Kas., to Fort Lyon, Colo., for duty (S. O. 216, Nov. 27, D. M.)

Surg. Warren Webster is relieved from duty as a member of G. C. M. convoked at Fort Warren, Mass., by S. O. 218, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 220, Nov. 30, D. E.)

Surg. W. Webster and Asst. Surg. D. G. Caldwell, M. D., are members G. C. M. at Fort Warren, Mass., Nov. 29 (S. O. 218, Nov. 26, D. E.)

NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF.

Hosp. Steward August L. Mainhard is assigned to duty at Fort Whipple, A. T.; Hosp. Steward John M. McKenzie is relieved from duty at Ft. Whipple, A. T., and will report to the C. O. Camp McDowell, A. T., for duty (S. O. 181, Nov. 15, D. A.)

Com. Sergt. William Bolton (recently appointed from 1st Sergeant Co. G, 17th Infantry), will proceed to Madison Bks., N. Y., for duty (S. O. 180, W. D.)

The following transfers and changes in the assignments of Commissary Sergeants are made: Com. Sergt. Benjamin Sheldon will remain at Camp Brown, Wyo. T.; Com. Sergt. Thomas Dowd (recently appointed) will proceed to Fort Cameron, U. T., and report for duty at that post; Com. Sergt. Henry Kirke Smith is relieved from duty at Fort Cameron, U. T., and will report for duty at Omaha Bks., Neb.; Com. Sergt. Albert Kelly is relieved at Omaha Bks., Neb., and will report for duty at Fort Laramie, Wyo. T., to relieve Com. Sergt. Hugh Walker. So much of par. 8, S. O. 234, Oct. 28, 1878, from this office, as relates to Com. Sergt. Thomas Dowd and Benjamin Sheldon, is revoked (S. O. Nov. 29, W. D.)

SUPERINTENDENTS OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

By direction of the Secretary of War, so much of G. O. 37, April 18, 1877, from this office, as provides that the number of candidates for appointment as Superintendents of National Cemeteries, serving on probation, shall at no time exceed four, is modified, temporarily, to allow the Quartermaster's Department to employ six probationary candidates until all vacancies in the grade of Superintendent of National Cemeteries are filled (G. O. 85, Dec. 2, H. Q. A.)

THE LINE.

1ST CAVALRY, Colonel Cuvier Grover.—Headquarters, and B. D. F. K. M. Ft. Walla Walla, W. T.; A. E. Camp Harvey, Ore.; C. Camp Bidwell, Cal.; G. Fort Boise, I. T.; I. Camp Halleck, Nev.; H. Fort Colville, Wash. T.; L. Fort Klamath, Ore.

Detached Service.—The telegraphic instructions of this date, relieving 1st Lieut. Charles C. Cresson from duty with his company and attaching him to Capt. Henry C. Hasbrouck's command, 4th Art., are confirmed. Capt. Hasbrouck will relieve Lieut. Cresson from duty with his command whenever he may deem it expedient to do so (S. F. O. 85, Aug. 8, D. C.)

Leave of Absence.—One year, on Surg. certificate, 1st Lieut. Charles C. Cresson (S. O. Nov. 30, W. D.)

Field Service.—The verbal instructions of the Dept. Comdr., in the field, placing 1st Lieut. John Q. Adams in charge of the duties of commissary officer, Nez Percé expedition, from August 11th to 30th, 1877, inclusive, are confirmed (S. O. 137, Nov. 12, D. C.)

sion of one month, Capt. E. R. Kellogg, Chattanooga, Tenn. (S. O. 87, Nov. 26, D. S.)

Leave Extended.—Capt. E. R. Kellogg, Chattanooga, Tenn., one month (S. O. 102, Dec. 2, M. D. A.)

19TH INFANTRY. Colonel Charles H. Smith.—Headquarters and B. H. K. Fort Lyon, C. T.; D. F. G. Fort Dodge, Kas.; C. I. Fort Elliott, Tex.; A. B. Camp Supply, L. T.

Detached Service.—Col. C. H. Smith will proceed from Fort Lyon, Colo., to Fort Leavenworth, Kas., in time to report as witness, on the 2d proximo, to 1st Lieut. W. J. Volkmar, 5th Cav., A. D. C. Recorder of the Retiring Board constituted by par. 6, S. O. 208, H. Q. A. (S. O. 215, Nov. 26, D. M.)

20TH INFANTRY. Colonel Geo. Sykes.—Headquarters and B. D. G. I. K. Fort Brown, Tex.; A. San Antonio, Tex.; C. E. F. H. Fort Clark, Tex.

Detached Service.—The following officers, having reported for Court-martial duty, are announced with station at San Antonio, Tex., and commutation for quarters from the dates opposite their names, respectively: Major J. E. Yard, 20th Inf., Nov. 13, 1878; Capt. Loyd Wheaton, 20th Inf., Nov. 19, 1878 (S. O. 247, Nov. 21, D. T.)

1st Lieut. Herbert Cushman, member, G. C.-M. San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 26 (S. O. 250, Nov. 25, D. T.)

21ST INFANTRY. Colonel Alfred Sully.—Headquarters and B. G. K. Fort Vancouver, W. T.; A. Fort Boise, I. T.; B. Camp Harney, Or.; F. Fort Klamath, Or.; C. Fort Lapwai, I. T.; D. E. Ft. Townsend, Wash. T.; E. Ft. Canby, Wash. T.

Change of Station.—1st Lieut. Daniel Cormann is relieved from command of Co. D, and will proceed to Fort Vancouver, W. T., for duty (S. F. O. 34, Aug. 7, D. C.)

Detached Service.—2d Lieut. Francis E. Eltonhead is assigned, temporarily, to the command of Co. D, and will relieve 1st Lieut. Daniel Cormann (S. F. O. 34, Aug. 7, D. C.)

The journey performed by 1st Lieut. Ebenezer W. Stone from Fort Townsend to Fort Vancouver, W. T., and return, on public business, is approved and authorized (S. O. 137, Nov. 13, D. C.)

Capt. W. F. Spriggin, member, and 2d Lieut. F. E. Eltonhead, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort Canby, Wash. T., Nov. 21 (S. O. 188, Nov. 13, D. C.)

22ND INFANTRY. Colonel David S. Stanley.—Headquarters and B. G. Fort Porter, N. Y.; A. C. D. H. Fort Wayne, Mich.; F. K. Fort Brady, Mich.; E. Fort Mackinac, Mich.; I. Fort Gratiot, Mich.

Detached Service.—Capts. Joseph Bush, Jason B. Irvine, 2d Lieuts. A. C. Sharpe, Theodore Mosher, R. N. Getty, members, and 1st Lieut. Oskaloosa M. Smith, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort Wayne, Mich., Dec. 2 (S. O. 218, Nov. 26, D. E.)

23RD INFANTRY. Colonel Jeff. C. Davis.—Headquarters and B. E. F. G. H. I. Fort Leavenworth, Kas.; B. C. K. Fort Hayes, Kas.

Detached Service.—Capt. George M. Randall is detailed on temporary special duty, to purchase cattle for distribution among the Nez Percé Indians now located in the Indian T. He will proceed to the point in the vicinity of these Indians best suited to the purpose, and after completing the duty assigned him will rejoin his station (S. O. 214, Nov. 25, D. M.)

2d Lieut. J. R. Clagett will report to the Supt. Mounted Recruiting Service to accompany a detachment of recruits to the Dept. of the Plate. On the completion of this duty he will join his company (S. O. Nov. 26, W. D.)

Leave of Absence.—Fifteen days, 2d Lieut. C. H. Heyl, Fort Leavenworth, Kas. (S. O. 214, Nov. 25, D. M.)

24TH INFANTRY. Colonel Joseph H. Potter.—Headquarters and A. B. F. G. H. I. Fort Duncan, Tex.; D. E. H. Fort McIntosh, Tex.; C. G. I. K. Ringgold Barracks, Tex.

Leave of Absence.—One month, to apply for extension of one month, 1st Lieut. J. L. Clem, Fort McIntosh, Tex. (S. O. 247, Nov. 21, D. T.)

Leave Extended.—1st Lieut. John L. Clem, Fort McIntosh, Tex., one month (S. O. 98, Dec. 2, M. D. M.)

25TH INFANTRY. Colonel George L. Andrews.—Headquarters and A. B. F. G. H. I. Fort Davis, Tex.; C. D. F. Fort Stockton, Tex.; B. San Felipe, Tex.; G. K. Ft. Concho, Tex. * In the field.

Detached Service.—3d Lieut. J. C. Ord, A. D. C., will proceed to Fort Griffin, Tex., on public business (S. O. 247, Nov. 21, D. T.)

Lieut.-Col. M. M. Blunt, having reported for Court-martial duty, is announced with station at San Antonio, Tex., and commutation for quarters from Nov. 18, 1878 (S. O. 247, Nov. 21, D. T.)

Relieved.—2d Lieut. J. C. Ord, relieved as member of Board of Officers instituted per par. 3, S. O. 218, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 251, Nov. 27, D. T.)

Casualties among the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Army reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, November 30, 1878.

Col. Robert C. Buchanan (retired)—Died Nov. 29, 1878, at Washington, D. C.

1st Lieut. John Harold, 19th Inf.—Died Nov. 27, 1878, at Fort Dodge, Kas.

Enlisted Men Sentenced to Confinement.

Four Months.—C. H. Johnson, I. 10th Cav.; C. Osmund, K. 15th Inf.; P. Murphy, C. 20th Inf.; E. P. Edgreen, G. 2d Art.; J. O'Brien, H. 8th Cav.; T. Ables, B. 18th Inf.; J. Denny, F. 5th Art.; T. Devine, F. 4th Art.

Six Months.—C. E. Packard, G. 18th Inf.; J. Clark, K. 1st Art.; D. Lewis, K. 1st Art.; W. Burns, E. 9th Cav.; E. Dempsey, F. 15th Inf.; C. W. Shannon, G. 9th Cav.; S. J. Ibbs, L. 8th Cav.; J. Hiltgrove, K. 4th Cav.; J. Tyson, G. 2d Art.; J. H. Cousins, C. 24th Inf.; T. Doyle, M. 3d Art.

Nine Months.—D. Gallagher, General Service.

Hospital Steward John Humphreys.

Ten Months.—Hospital Steward John Humphreys.

One Year.—J. Horton, I. 10th Cav.; P. Maloney, F. 2d Art.

Two Years.—H. Downe, E. 5th Cav.; M. Slattery, G. 18th Inf.; J. Harwood, E. 1st Art.; P. E. Jones, E. 1st Art.; W. Van Run, A. 8th Inf.; L. W. Rollins, B. 8th Inf.

Three Years.—W. A. Alfrey, C. 16th Inf.; B. M. Loosier, L. 7th Cav.; S. Richardson, B. 9th Inf.; E. Henderson, C. 2d Batt. 13th

Inf.; E. S. Hutcheson, D. 16th Inf.; C. W. Bridges, B. 2d Cav.; J. E. Schlecker, B. 15th Inf.; C. E. Vandever, D. 3d Cav.; G. W. Cooper, General Service, U. S. A.; T. Reynolds, D. 9th Cav.; E. Duffy, F. 15th Inf.; J. W. Tabor, H. 16th Inf.; E. Benedict, G. S. Recruit.

Five Years.—C. A. Barker, E. 7th Inf.
Eight Years.—J. Love, K. 24th Inf.

Enlisted Men Released from Confinement.

J. Howard, A. 10th Inf.; A. E. Bishop and E. P. Edgreen, L. 2d Art.; C. H. Mack, I. 6th Cav.; J. Donahoe, H. 1st Art.; C. Power, D. 1st Art.; W. O'Connor, K. 4th Art.; J. Greenwood, D. 1st Cav.; C. Reiser, I. 8th Inf.; H. Wempe, B. 4th Inf.; E. Kelchert, H. 8th Inf.; J. Walker, C. 3d Art.; W. Bennett, M. 1st Cav.; F. Boyle, I. 1st Cav.; E. C. McKinney, C. 1st Cav.; R. Davis, E. 8th Inf.; T. A. Osborne, H. 12th Inf.; C. Bassford, B. 19th Inf.; J. McNamara, M. 1st Cav.

The following named military prisoners, entitled to an abatement of five days per month for continuous good conduct, were discharged from the Fort Leavenworth Military Prison: John Thompson, Edward See, John F. Smith, Daniel M. Evans, James Gauley, Jesse Watt, John Miller, James Matherson, Arthur Smith, Patrick Kelly, Franklin Howard, John J. Lintz, John McGrath, Thomas Dunn, Edward Murphy, Abram Day, John Lewis, John M. Reese, John Kennedy, William Bolster, Robert E. Walton, Daniel C. Stewart, John H. Delee, Martin Schultz, James Boughton, George Jackson.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

In his annual report Secretary McCrary says: The reports of the Quartermaster-General and Commissary General of Subsistence, as well as those of the General of the Army and the department and division commanders, all concur in showing that the Army has been well and economically subsisted and clothed, while the character of the rank and file has been materially improved. Great care has been exercised in the selection of recruits, and as one of the gratifying results the number of desertions has been considerably reduced, the total decrease below the number last year being 888.

DESERTIONS.

The aggregate number of desertions during each of the past six years has been as follows:

Aggregate number of desertions from United States Army, fiscal year ending—

June 30, 1873.....	7,271
June 30, 1874.....	4,606
June 30, 1875.....	3,531
June 30, 1876.....	1,844
June 30, 1877.....	3,516
June 30, 1878.....	1,678

Notwithstanding the improvement apparent from this statement the fact remains that the crime of desertion is still alarmingly prevalent and an evil of no ordinary magnitude.

THE INDIANS.

Indian hostilities have occurred in various localities in the Territories, and have been suppressed by the Army, but in some cases not without serious loss of life, both among soldiers and citizens. I remain of the opinion that permanent peace in the Indian country can only be maintained by the exhibition of force sufficient to overawe and keep in subjection the more warlike and dangerous of the savages. It is to be hoped that the time is coming when the Indian can be governed by other methods, but until he has been reached and elevated by the influences of education and civilization we must deal with him as he is and by such methods as will keep him at peace and make secure the lives of settlers in his neighborhood. While, therefore, we should persevere in the effort to improve the condition of the Indian tribes by teaching them the arts of the herdsman and afterwards those of the husbandman, and by providing for the education of their youth, we should, at the same time, confront them with such military force as will teach them the futility of any attempt to resist the power of the United States. I also fully agree with the General of the Army in the opinion that such provision should be made by Congress as will prevent the possibility of suffering from lack of food among Indians confined upon reservations. In short, our policy toward the Indians should be designed to enforce these two propositions, viz :

1. Fair and just treatment of the Indians, including the faithful performance on our part of every promise; and,

2. The prompt and effectual punishment of all acts of war on their part, and to this end the employment of a sufficient military force in the Indian country to act with vigor and success, when occasion requires, and prevent the possibility of the defeat or massacre of small detachments of our troops, by which Indian wars have been so often in the past encouraged and prolonged.

The experiment of enlisting for special service, Indian scouts has proved quite successful, and it has been a source of regret that the department has not been able to employ a larger number. Under the existing law, which treats such scouts as a part of the twenty-five thousand enlisted men of the Army, it has been impossible to employ, of the one thousand authorized, a greater number than three hundred without impairing seriously the efficiency of the regular forces. As a material aid in the management of Indian affairs I recommend that the law be so amended as to authorize an increase of the number of such scouts, and so as to declare them to be a force in addition to the number of enlisted men authorized for the Army proper.

Referring to the Board appointed to carry out the provisions of R. S. 1232, relating to education in the Army, the Secretary says:

*In pursuance of the forty-first of said rules, Col. A. McD. McCook, aide de-camp to the General of the Army, has been detailed to visit and inspect regularly the various post schools. It is made his duty to examine into the system of instruction; to advise commanders of posts of defects which he may discover, and to suggest methods of improvement; to endeavor to bring about uniformity in the methods of manage-

ment and instruction, and to make known throughout the Army the best methods and systems in existence at any military post. He is to report the result of his inspection fully to the War Department, from time to time. Colonel McCook has entered upon the discharge of his duty.

It is recommended that the authority of Congress be asked to increase the extra *per diem* of soldier teachers from thirty-five to fifty cents. This is necessary in order to secure thoroughly competent men, and would probably lead to the enlistment of a class of educated young men with a view to a detail as teachers. It is further recommended that a liberal appropriation be made for expenditure, under the direction of the Quartermaster-General, for the erection of buildings for schools and libraries at the different posts.

THE MEXICAN BORDER.

The increase of our force in the vicinity of the Rio Grande, and the vigorous policy which for some time has been pursued in dealing with marauders invading our soil from Mexico, have produced the result predicted in my report of one year ago. Although the people of Texas have not been exempt from these incursions during the year, and several of them have been attended by heartrending atrocities, yet they have been fewer in number than during any year for a long period, and within the past four months almost perfect quiet has prevailed. A considerable Mexican force has been sent to the vicinity of the border to operate against the bands of Indians infesting that region, and the avowed purpose of the Mexican government is to put a stop to raids upon our people and territory.

TROOPS AS A POSSE COMITATUS.

The fifteenth section of the act of Congress of June 18, 1878, provides that—

From and after the passage of this act it shall not be lawful to employ any of the Army of the United States as a posse comitatus or otherwise, for the purpose of executing the laws, except in such cases and under such circumstances as such employment of said force may be expressly authorized by the Constitution or by act of Congress.

In my judgment it is important either that this provision be repealed or that the number of cases in which the use of the Army shall be "expressly authorized" be very much enlarged. In many portions of our Western Territories, and even in some portions of the newer States, a resolute desperado, with a few followers, can defy the officers of the law and any local posse that can be organized. During the year numerous attacks have been made on the mail coaches in New Mexico and Arizona for purposes of robbery and plunder; and while I have been of the opinion that the mails of the United States may be defended by the use of troops, I have been obliged to give instructions that they cannot, without disregarding the act of Congress, be employed to aid the officers of the law in capturing the robbers after they have committed the crime. In doing so they would act as a posse comitatus, and this is nowhere by law "expressly authorized." In the new and sparsely populated regions of the West, to say to robbers and thieves that they shall not be taken on any writ unless the sheriff and his local posse is able to capture them without aid from the soldiers, is almost to grant them immunity from arrest. In those new regions the Army is the power chiefly relied upon by the law-abiding people for protection and chiefly feared by the lawless classes. Numerous instances might be cited, but the recent occurrences in Lincoln County, New Mexico, constitute a striking example. The inability of the officer in command of the troops in that vicinity to aid the officers of the law in making arrests, was one of the principal causes which led to the most disgraceful scenes of riot and murder, amounting, in fact, to anarchy. This state of things continued until a case could be made for declaring the district in insurrection, after which a proclamation of warning was issued by the President, the troops were called into action and at once restored quiet. I am clearly of the opinion that the President should be left free to employ the national forces in aid of the process of the federal courts whenever he shall deem it necessary; but if such use is to be limited to cases where, as declared by the act above quoted, it "is expressly authorized by the constitution or by acts of Congress," then it is respectfully submitted that Congress should give very careful attention to the enumeration and specification of the cases in which such use of troops is to be permitted.

YELLOW FEVER SUFFERERS.

[In reference to the issue of rations to yellow fever sufferers, the Secretary says that, while there was no statute to authorize the orders given in the premises, they were not unprecedented, similar action having been taken by the government, through this department, on several previous occasions. If, however, no such precedent had been found, I think the circumstances of the case would have fully justified the action taken.]

The fearful ravages of this terrible disease constituted an extraordinary calamity which required that aid should be granted. In ordering the issues in question, however, I thought it necessary to adopt as a rule for my guidance, that Government aid should not be extended except in cases of great emergency and when no other mode of relief was possible, and that rule has been strictly adhered to. In addition to the issue of rations, as shown by the report of the Commissary General, tents were issued as a loan, as follows:

August 15—1,000 common tents to Memphis.

August 20—200 common tents to Vicksburg.

August 24—300 common tents to Memphis.

September 7—25 common tents to Natchez.

September 21—1 hospital tent to Donaldsville.

September 21—70 common tents to Chattanooga.

Also a small supply of medicines was issued to Grenada. I respectfully recommend that a joint reso-

lution be passed by Congress approving and legalizing these issues.

I would recommend to Congress the careful consideration of the question whether such emergencies in the future may not be provided for by law by conferring authority to act upon the President. If it be practicable the law should be so framed as never to leave an executive officer under the necessity of acting outside of the statutes.

APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES AND ESTIMATES.

The expenditures under the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, were \$3,618,888.69 less than those for the previous fiscal year, and the expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1878, were \$4,324,734.54 less than those for 1877.

The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, as presented by chiefs of bureaus, were \$32,829,954.67. These I have reduced to \$40,387,718.33, which amount is only \$1,910,862.15 in excess of the aggregate appropriations for 1879, and, as we shall presently see, is only an apparent increase even of that amount, since the appropriations for the current year for the support of the Army seem to have been upon the basis of 20,450 enlisted men, while the number authorized by law was left at 25,450. As reduced and submitted these estimates are for a less sum of money than any annual estimates rendered to Congress from this department during a period of at least eleven years, and are \$2,727,724.91 less than those for the fiscal year 1879, which were \$43,115,443.24.

The estimates, as compiled and promulgated in the book of estimates, are divided into four classes—namely, the civil establishment, the military establishment, the public works and the miscellaneous, and under these heads they may be briefly considered.

In the civil establishment a slight increase of appropriations is desired on account of existing necessities, which demand the employment of a large number of clerks. The present clerical force is insufficient to properly attend to and despatch the current public business of this office and of the military bureaus. Congressional calls for facts and figures cannot satisfactorily be answered, and reasonable requests for copies of records cannot properly be granted without extra hours of labor, volunteer services or appropriations for the employment of additional clerks.

The estimates for the military establishment are \$39,335,727.33, and are on a basis of 25,450 enlisted men, the force now allowed by law. These figures, compared with those for 1879, which were on a basis of 25,000 enlisted men, show a reduction of \$3,361,543.33, which occurs principally in the Quartermaster's Department; and compared with the appropriations for 1879 in the aggregate \$35,936,117.18, which, as understood at his department, were on a basis of 20,450 enlisted men, exhibit a difference of only \$2,399,610.15 between the amount of the present estimates and the amount of appropriations for the current fiscal year. These estimates, if rendered for the increased number of men on what is regarded as the basis of the legislative allowance for 20,450 enlisted men for 1879, would be about \$33,430,146.47.

The estimates for public works are \$7,610,981.30, the same being \$382,066.46 less than those for 1879, and \$1,814,493.70 less than the appropriated at the last session of Congress. The largest differences between the estimates and the appropriations under this head appear in the titles "Fortifications and other works of defence," and "Harbors and rivers."

In order to continue operations on fortifications and other works of defence during the fiscal year of 1876 appropriations amounting to \$15,000 were made in 1873. Since that time estimates for upwards of \$2,000,000 have been rendered to Congress each year, but no greater appropriation than \$150,000 per annum has been made for such works. In view of these facts the estimates for 1880 have been reduced from \$3,188,400 to \$1,000,000, which sum, if wisely allotted, can well be applied to improve some of the important works of public defence and preserve them from waste and ruin.

RIVERS AND HARBORS.

In connection with the reports of examinations and surveys of rivers and harbors, made by order of Congress since July 27, 1868, this department prepares and submits to Congress full statements of all existing facts tending to show to what extent the general commerce of the country will be promoted by the several works of improvements contemplated by such examinations and surveys (see sec. 231, R. S.). These statements necessarily include estimates to continue all works once commenced under legal authority and remaining unfinished for want of funds. The annual estimates submitted to Congress for the improvement of rivers and harbors have thus become largely in excess of the appropriations obtained for the works; as, for 1876, on \$13,504,301 submitted, \$6,641,517.50 were granted; and for 1877, on \$14,01,100 reported, \$5,015,080 were allowed; and for 1878, on \$13,220,000 suggested, nothing was appropriated. The estimates for 1879, compiled by the Chief of Engineers, in order to show full statements of all existing facts relative to these works of improvements, were rendered for \$13,302,600, but were reduced by me to correspond with the aggregate appropriated August 14, 1878, the same being \$5,015,000. This amount was, however, exceeded in the appropriations for 1879, which were \$8,276,700, or \$3,361,700 more than the estimates as revised. The aggregate originally stated for rivers and harbors for 1880 was \$15,019,000. This has been reduced on my revision to correspond with the estimates as revised for 1879, and the reduction is based on the belief that \$5,015,000 judiciously expended during the fiscal year 1880 will be a liberal allowance under this head of appropriation for the promotion of the general commerce of the country.

In the estimates for miscellaneous objects some items show an increase over the estimates for 1879, but the several amounts, considered as a whole, are deemed reasonable when compared with similar items in the appropriations for the current fiscal year.

REPORT OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

The Quartermaster General reports that during the fiscal year the requisitions from his office for payments and remittances by the Treasury, on all accounts, amounted to \$12,792,603.50. Of this amount \$746,743.30 was during the year, under the law of 30th June 1874, converted into the Treasury to the credit of the surplus fund. The balance withdrawn in the Treasury at the end of June 1878, was \$1,329,055.92. The department proved during the year 79,260 passengers, 11,400 beasts and 109,961 tons of military material.

The operations of the department are embarrassed by the action of Congress relating to land grant railroads, to none of which can money be paid until the conclusion of a suit before the courts.

As the principles and claims involved have been finally acted on by the Supreme Court, and judgment in favor of the roads, upon the rates heretofore fixed by the War Department, has been given in every case finally decided, it is thought that it would be wise and just to repeal this restrictive legislation, and allow the railroad accounts to be settled as other accounts for military service, without imposing upon the companies the delay and expense of formal suits, which hereafter can involve only principles already decided in their favor.

There are still in the Quartermaster-General's Office about twenty-four thousand claims and accounts unsettled, calling for payment of \$13,000,000; also many claims which have been rejected, and which, as the Third Auditor can no longer provide proof space for their custody, remain in the Quartermaster-General's Office. A very unsafe building, one in which a fire, once under way, would make such rapid progress that but a small portion of its contents could escape destruction.

[The Secretary also refers under this head to the recommendation of Gen. Meigs as to the preservation of his records, and the acquiring of military sites in Texas and what he says as to the temporary increase of expenses for barracks and quarters by recent changes of headquarters, which will in the end "prove to be both beneficial and economical."]

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS.

The report of the Chief of Engineers states that work upon our sea coast defences, owing to the lack of appropriations, has been limited to the care and preservation of the works. The system governing the construction of our works of defence was elaborated and adopted in 1869, the main features of which are the use of heavy earthen barbette batteries, protected by high traverses, and arranged for guns and mortars of large calibre, to be supplemented in the future by guns of the heaviest modern calibre, and of obstructions in the channels (mainly electrical torpedoes) to prevent vessels from running past the batteries. The Chief of Engineers now recommends, in addition to completing the open batteries already partially constructed, the conversion of some of our casemated forts for the reception of guns of the largest calibre behind armor plates of iron. The trials and experiments with the torpedo defence have continued at Willet's Point with satisfactory results. The Battalion of Engineers, under the law reducing the Army, has been fixed at 200 enlisted men. This number, in the opinion of the Chief of Engineers, is too small for the efficient performance of the duties required of them. If a war should occur with a maritime Power the want of trained soldiers to plant and operate our torpedo defences would be seriously felt; and it is submitted whether the needs of this branch of the service may not justify a minimum organization for the battalion or not less than 500 enlisted men. For the torpedo service alone that number is requisite. The duty requires an intelligence and training which cannot be supplied in an emergency. In the event of the increase in the battalion, as recommended, considerable detachments therefrom can be advantageously employed in time of peace in the surveys under the Engineer Department, and especially in the surveys by the engineer officers on the staffs of division and department commanders west of the Mississippi River. The works of river and harbor improvement provided for by the act of August 14, 1876, were carried on during the fiscal year with satisfactory progress under the balances remaining of the appropriations contained in that and prior Additional appropriations for river and harbor improvements were made by Congress in the act approved June 18, 1878, and as far as practicable the works provided for therein are in process of execution. Detailed information in regard to each specific river and harbor improvement may be found in the report of the Chief of Engineers. The survey of the Mississippi River, recently commenced by the Engineer Department, has been carried from Mound City above Memphis to Scanlon's Landing, Ark., and a line of precise levels has been completed from Memphis, Tenn., to Austin, Miss. Detailed charts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the river have been completed.

THE WHEELER SURVEY.

The systematic survey of the territory west of the 100th meridian, which has been for several years prosecuted under the direction of the Chief of Engineers, by the officers of the corps of engineers and other officers of the Army, has been carried on during the last fiscal year in California, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. The area surveyed and mapped since its commencement has aggregated more than 300,000 square miles. The topographical maps, which are the most important and useful result of this survey, are regularly published and become at once available for the uses of the War Department and the other branches of the government service, for the settlers of our public lands, and for incorporation into school atlases and other maps for popular use published by private enterprise. Its organization is complete and in excellent condition for carrying on its work rapidly and economically, and it is hoped that the full amount of appropriation asked for by the Chief of Engineers for the next fiscal year will be granted by Congress.

After a detailed description of the work at the South Pass of the Mississippi River and the amount of payments made the Secretary says:

The epidemic of yellow fever reached Port Eads about July 25, and although its ravages did not begin during the last fiscal year it is well to state that the fever became so severe about August 6 that it was thought necessary to suspend active operations at the jetties until the fever had disappeared. The earlier portion of the low water season, during which the work of construction is most easily and economically conducted, had therefore been lost by Mr. Eads, and as it became necessary to allow those of the United States engineer party under the inspecting officer who were not thoroughly acclimated to leave the vicinity, the regularity of detailed reports has been necessarily interrupted.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE.

The report of the Chief of Ordnance gives a full history of the principal operations of the Ordnance Department during the year. The erection of buildings at the Rock Island Arsenal has been prosecuted satisfactorily under the efficient supervision of Major Flagler. Ordnance depots have been established at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Fort Leavenworth, and Cheyenne. Attention is called to the great importance of increasing the appropriation for the manufacture of small arms. On the 1st of October there were in store as a reserve supply only 22,555 arms of the latest model. The moral effect of a large supply of these arms cannot be overestimated. To be prepared for immediate hostilities is regarded as a great power which must enter largely as an important factor in the determination of international questions which may or may not lead to war. In accordance with the act of Congress approved Nov. 21, 1877, a board of officers was convened, by order of the Secretary of War, for the purpose of recommending a magazine gun for the military service. All persons interested in magazine guns were invited to submit samples and appear in person. The report of the board is submitted with that of the Chief of Ordnance. It recommended the Hotchkiss gun, and, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Ordnance, the Secretary of War has approved the action of the board and the expenditure under the law of \$20,000 in its manufacture.

The Chief of Ordnance is of the opinion that the present annual appropriation of \$300,000 for arming and equipping the militia is insufficient to provide the arms and equipments necessary to encourage new organizations and keep the organized force in proper condition. He therefore recommends an increase of the annual appropriation. I suggest that the attention of Congress be invited to this important subject.

BUREAU OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

In my last annual report I invited attention to the recommendation of the Judge Advocate-General, that additional legislation should fix, beyond question, a specific period of limitation to prosecutions in cases of desertion. The urgent importance of some wise legislation upon this subject, to which the Judge Advocate-General again refers, continues to fully impress me. A small army, such as ours, manifestly needs all that strict discipline can do to supply by the greatest efficiency, whatever may be lacking in numerical strength. To this end nothing is more essential than a good military code, set forth in plain and definite terms, so that by its efficient execution punishment may follow crime with certainty and effect. Desertion strikes at the very root of military strength and discipline. It not only takes away from the ranks the numbers of those who abscond, but it tends to greatly demoralize those who remain, especially when they see crime attended by impunity. Instances, doubtless, are sometimes found which naturally and strongly appeal to compassion in behalf of men who deserted long since, perhaps under circumstances of extenuation, and having become useful citizens and heads of growing families, live in constant and painful dread of the consequences of their crime. For such, as for all similar cases, whether military or civil, the pardoning power is designed to afford all proper relief.

The Secretary discusses the limit which should be put to legal prosecutions, saying finally:

The subject is full of difficulty, but probably the best solution would be to fix the limitation of the time during which the deserter can be arrested at three years, and provide that the time shall not run while the accused shall have absented himself from the country, secreted himself, or for any other reason shall not have been amenable to justice within that period.

He also recommends that the 1834 Article of War be amended so as to extend the limitation in all cases of fraud to five years.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

The report of the Inspector-General shows that he and his subordinates have discharged their duties with ability and zeal. Their inspection has established the fact that the commissioned officers, as a general rule, are temperate, zealous, attentive to their duties and not addicted to vicious or hurtful habits. The opinion is expressed concerning the rank and file that we have never had a finer body of men in service than at this time. The

instruction in drills and other military exercises has been much interrupted during the year, owing to the reduced state of the companies, the exceedingly small garrisons and the large amount of labor necessarily imposed upon the men in building, repairs, care of public property, etc. Proper attention has been given to discipline, and it is reported as excellent. The Inspector-General reports that the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., established under the act of May 21, 1874, is now in successful operation. The officers assigned to duty with it are competent and faithful in the discharge of their duties, and the convicts are properly governed and employed, while at the same time they are treated with humanity and kindness. On the 25th ult. there were 373 military convicts confined in this prison.

All the shoes required for issue to the troops are now fabricated by the convicts at the prison, and are of excellent quality. Indeed, it is said by many officers that we have never before had as good an article in our Army, and as soon as the additional shops now in process of erection are completed many other articles now purchased from citizens can, it is believed, be manufactured to better advantage there. At the same time a large number of men would be instructed in useful mechanical occupations that would tend to make them better qualified for self-support and better citizens when they are discharged.

The national cemeteries have all been inspected during the year by officers of the Inspector-General's Department, and found in excellent order. The superintendents, with very few exceptions, have evinced efficiency, diligence, and pride in the proper discharge of the duties devolving upon them, and it is believed these cemeteries will bear favorable comparison with any of the civilian cemeteries of the country.

REPORT OF THE PAYMASTER-GENERAL.

The Paymaster-General urges the repeal of so much of the act of July 24, 1876, as forbids payment to officers of the Army of mileage for travel "on any railroad on which the troops of the United States are entitled to be transported free," and he states reasons for this request which seem to me entirely satisfactory.

I invite attention to the recommendation of the Paymaster-General that such legislation be had as will require that vacancies occurring in the Pay Department be filled by appointment from the captains of the line or from those who have served as additional paymasters.

I also make special reference to that officer's renewed recommendation for the establishment of the annuity scheme, which was approved in my last report, as well as by the President in his Annual Message. Upon a re-consideration of the subject I am still disposed to give it my emphatic approval.

The other recommendations of the Paymaster-General, all of them apparently wise and judicious, are commended to the attention of Congress.

REPORT OF THE SURGEON-GENERAL.

The Surgeon-General reports the total number of deaths in the Army during the year, from all causes, at 256, or about twelve in one thousand. Of these, 121 died of diseases and 135 of wounds, accidents, and injuries. The removal of garrisons from threatened points, although in some instances deferred later than prudence would dictate, has saved the Army from any serious losses during the prevalence of the dreadful epidemic of yellow fever which has proved so fatal this year among the citizens of the Southern States.

The record and pension division of the Surgeon-General's Office has been called upon for information as to the cause of death of deceased soldiers in 21,074 cases, being rather more than an average number. There remained on file and unanswered at the end of the previous year 18,697 cases, so that the total number of cases to be searched during the year was 39,771. Search was made and replies furnished to the proper authorities during the fiscal year in 22,927 cases. At the close of the fiscal year 16,444 cases remained unanswered.

In the division of surgical records a larger number of very interesting and complete reports were received during the past fiscal year from medical officers of the Army serving on the frontier with troops engaged in Indian hostilities on various matters connected with Army surgery; but perhaps no subject received such careful attention as that of conveying the sick and wounded from the field of battle to points of safety, and many were the devices that suggested themselves to practical officers to make the journey as comfortable as possible to the patients intrusted to their care.

Reference is made to our severe losses in Indian engagements reported by the surgeon-general, and his requests that he be allowed to print his catalogue is endorsed.

UNION AND CONFEDERATE WAR RECORDS.

The records of the War of the Rebellion, both Union and Confederate, are under the charge of the Adjutant-General of the Army. The work of preparing these for publication is under charge of Colonel Robert N. Scott, United States Army, to whose report I invite attention. The work of collecting reports of battles by Union commanders, which were not originally forwarded to this office, has been unremittingly prosecuted since the close of the war, and a very large number has been added to the files through the medium of correspondence. There are yet some important reports missing, but hopes are entertained of procuring them. The Confederate records obtained in Richmond at the time of its capture were brought here in 1865, and have been carefully arranged. The agent recently appointed by me, Gen. Marcus J. Wright, has been assiduously and successfully engaged for the past six months in procuring interesting papers relating to that side. Through a candid and liberal understanding with the Southern Historical Society, as well as with several other possessors of such papers, this department is daily adding to its material for a history of the war. The department is now ready to transmit to Congress a considerable amount of matter systematically arranged, so soon as specific action by Congress shall enable it to do so. The appropriations heretofore made have been for preparing for publication, not for publishing. As a commencement in the latter direction I submit that the following plan would generally be thought the best:

That the Secretary of War be authorized and directed to submit to Congress, at his early convenience, the reports of military operations and battles, arranged according to the judgment of the compiler as approved by the Secretary of War.

That \$10,000 be appropriated to print—copies for distribution to libraries, etc., by members of Congress, and—copies for the President of the United States and the executive departments of the Government, to be distributed by the Secretary of War; and—copies to be sold by the public printer, at a small advance on cost price, at private sale, the proceeds of such sales to be available for the prosecution of the work of collecting and preparing other records for publication.

That \$10,000 be appropriated to continue the work of collecting and preparing the records for further publications under the direction of the Secretary of War.

That the Secretary of War be requested to submit to Congress plans for future publications as soon as prepared.

The Engineer Department has published a series of topographical maps from actual surveys of the various battle fields, upon which are marked the positions of the two armies. These are by themselves a history of the war of no ordinary value and interest. Coupled with the battle reports now ready for publication they would present all that could be obtained or asked. This would immediately satisfy the ardent desire of the public, for which it has been impatiently waiting for years. The correspondence, telegrams, etc., could follow with little delay.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER.

The Chief Signal Officer reports that the established course of drill and instruction in military signalling and telegraphy, meteorology and the signal service, at stations of observation and report, together with the schools of the Signal Corps with arms, has continued at the school of instruction and practice at Fort Whipple, Va. The officers of the signal service pass the course of drill and instruction, and serve regularly at the post of Fort Whipple before being put upon any other duty. It is recommended that all officers of the Army intended to be instructed as acting signal officers, or to be temporarily instructors in geographical military departments for the field duties of the signal service, be here instructed before being put upon detached duty. There have been instructed during the year ninety-six men as assistant observers and eighteen for promotion to the grade of sergeant. The wise legislation of the act approved July 20, 1878, permanently organizing the enlisted men of the signal corps, providing 150 sergeants, 30 corporals, and 270 privates, has been and will be productive of good results. It has done away with annoyances and embarrassments inevitable without it. It has fixed the service on an honorable footing, and opened a career, of which they are proud, to the best class of young American citizens. The office files are crowded

with applications for enlistment. The severe examinations are successfully undergone. The clause providing "that two sergeants may in each year be appointed to be 2d lieutenants" gives that stimulus of permanent service and promised reward so long and earnestly sought for. Until the results of this organization, up to this time no satisfactory, have been more fully tested, it is not advisable that changes be attempted.

[After giving a description of the work of the corps the Secretary continues:]

In pursuance of the act of Congress authorizing the construction and operation of telegraphic lines in the interior and upon the frontier for connecting military posts and stations and for the protection of the populations from Indian and other depredations officers and enlisted men of the signal service have been continued upon these duties. The lines in Arizona, New Mexico, and upon the Texas frontier are nearly completed. The lines in the Northwest, for which provision is made, are pushed rapidly forward. The work of construction has been in large part done by working parties furnished by the active co-operation of department commanders. A total length of 3,200 miles of line is now operated and maintained in the care of officers and enlisted men of the signal service.

The co-operation of scientific men at home and abroad has been continued. It has made a world wide study possible. The popular support and the support of the press have been steady and considerate. There is the assurance of success in achieving a public good to follow earnest labor.

THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

The annual reports of the major-general commanding the Military Academy at West Point, and of the Board of Visitors which assembled at the examination in June last, are hereto appended. I concur with the commanding general in his commendation of the system of competitive examinations now so largely used to determine the selection of candidates for appointment from Congressional districts, which is indirectly but powerfully working to improve the school system of the State. I also concur in a proposed partial revision of the academic system. But I am not at this time in favor of advancing the qualifications for admission or the grade of theoretical studies at the Academy. It would serve to exclude many young men of sufficient capacity for the ordinary military duties without adding a necessary element of usefulness in their performance. I would rather drop out certain subjects, to give time for the study of others more practically useful.

The question of admission at the September term is within the discretion of this department, and will be duly considered.

I specially commend for favorable action the recommendation for sufficient appropriations to procure an adequate supply of water at the post, in connection with all the important subject of sewerage and also to complete the hospital. From personal examination last summer I am persuaded that their importance to the health of the officers and cadets is not overstated.

The gratifying opinion is expressed by the Board of Visitors, as a "general result of investigation," "that there is at least one public institution in the United States of which it can truly be affirmed that the more it is investigated the better it appears, and for the direct administration and control of which no person is believed to have been selected for any other reason than fitness to discharge the trust confided to him." This is the keynote to the candid and liberal view exhibited throughout the report, which should commend it to the careful notice of Congress, while it should also inspire in the country at large the confidence in our Military Academy which it has fairly won and fully deserves.

GEORGE W. McCRARY, Secretary of War.

THE NAVY.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, President and Com'der-in-Chief
RICHARD W. THOMPSON, Secretary of the Navy.
JOHN W. HOGG, Chief Clerk.

THE Marion arrived at Nice, on Nov. 2d, and commenced to fit out for the voyage home at once.

THE Saratoga dropped down below Fort Henry, Balt., on Dec. 2, and was waiting a fair wind to sail for Washington.

CAPTAIN CLARKE WELLS, with his family, has returned to Washington, and is at his old quarters—the "Ebbitt."

THE Constitution and Supply are expected to sail from Havre, about Dec. 15. The former for Phila. and the latter for New York.

THE Hartford was at St. Catharine's, Brazil, Oct. 31, enroute, having left Rio de Janeiro on the 9th, and arrived at St. Catharine, on the 21st. He reports the health of all on board good.

COMMANDER BYRON WILSON is among the arrivals at the National Hotel in Washington, last week, and is reported as looking remarkably well after his vacation of hunting and fishing, in and near the Northern States.

A COURT OF INQUIRY has been ordered to convene at the Navy Yard, Boston, on Dec. 5, to inquire into the circumstances connected with the recent defalcation of Pay Clerk O'Reilly. The court is composed of Commo. A. C. Rhind, Pay Director T. N. Looker, and Pay Inspector Edward May, with Passed Asst. Paymaster Geo. H. Read, as Judge Advocate.

PRIVATE advices report the arrival of the Vandalia at Gibraltar, Nov. 12th, en route to Boston. A gale prevented her coaling at once, and she did not get away until the 16th. The Vandalia left Gibraltar for Boston on November 16, the commander intending to make the Southern passage principally under sail.

THE newspapers announce the marriage on Nov. 18, at Oakland, Cal., of Midshipman S. J. Brown and Miss Alice Graham, adopted daughter of Major James Roach, of the U. S. Army. Mid. Brown passed No. 1, in the graduating class of 1876, and has been recently detached from the Jamestown Marine School ship at San Francisco.

REAR ADMIRAL JNO. C. HOWELL, has been on a visit to the Capital, and will rejoin his flag-ship, the Powhatan, at Norfolk, in a few days, and in the course of a week or two probably proceed on a cruise Southward. The Admiral's health has remarkably improved since he left the Navy Department and resumed his native element.

THE Alert was ordered by cable message on Nov. 30, to proceed from the Asiatic Station to San Francisco. The object is to get another crew, the time of service of her present one being about out, and to bring home men on other vessels whose times have expired. She will also bring home the midshipmen on the squadron, of the class of 1876, entitled to examination, invalids, prisoners, &c. The Alert being,

it is supposed, in good condition, will remain only long enough at San Francisco to transfer her crew and receive a new one, and then return to her station. She will be brought home by Commander Manley, now commanding the Ranger, and Commander Boyd will take command of the latter vessel.

A COURT-MARTIAL is ordered to convene at Philadelphia, Dec. 3, for the trial of Major L. L. Dawson, of the U. S. Marine, upon charges connected with his late command at the League Island Navy Yard. The court is composed of Col. M. R. Kintzing, Pres't; Lieut. Col. James H. Jones, Major W. B. Slack, Major Chas. Heywood, Capt. W. A. T. Maddox, Capt. Geo. M. Collier, Capt. Fred. H. Corrie, Members, and Capt. H. A. Bartlett, Judge Advocate.

PAY DIRECTOR JOHN S. CUNNINGHAM is an applicant to Congress for relief from the loss incurred by the appropriation by his clerk Franklin Philip, of the proceeds of three checks amounting in all to \$1,284.19. He shows that Philip's appointment was approved by the Navy Department, and that his ability to misappropriate the funds was due to the fact that the checks were necessarily made payable to bearer, the assistant treasurer refusing to pay any other. He shows further that his accounts, "aggregating many millions of dollars, have been habitually settled with promptness and accuracy; that he has never had a balance against him in the Treasury, and that his official conduct has been such as to receive the commendation of the accounting officers of the Government; that his latest account was closed at the Treasury without the difference of a cent."

A SERIES of hope are to be given by the first classes of the U. S. Naval Academy, at Annapolis, commencing on Thanksgiving evening, Nov. 27th. The cards of invitation are printed from a very handsome design drawn by "E. E. H. '79," and engraved by Dreka, Philadelphia.

THE Boston Herald says: If the "superintendent of chips" at the Charlestown Navy Yard really has been ousted from the Government premises never to return, no better evidence will be needed to convince people that a season of reform has actually been opened. There has been more wordy warfare, farcical investigation, and influence which should have been employed "for the good of the service," wasted upon that diminutive officer, and matters growing out of his connection with the navy yard, than would have sufficed to have given a new religion of the Turks. It is to be hoped the "chips" will go into different baskets in the future.

PERLEY writes to the Boston Journal: Secretary Thompson has made the staff officers of the Navy rejoice by abolishing the distinctive buttons and colored uniform facings which engineers, surgeons, paymasters and chaplains have had to wear. This is carrying out, in the Secretary's opinion, the laws establishing assimilated rank and abolishing distinctions between the line and staff. Of course the line officers are not happy.

THE Quinnebaug was expected to sail from Norfolk on Dec. 4, on steam trial trip, and in case the weather was favorable would proceed to Annapolis, arriving there about Friday or Saturday.

CHIEF ENGINEER Harman Newell has been appointed Senior Member, and Chief Engineers D. B. Macomb and W. H. King, members of a Board, to test the machinery of the U. S. steamer Quinnebaug at Norfolk.

CHIEF ENGINEER B. F. Garvin has been appointed Senior Member, and Chief Engineers Edward D. Robie and John W. Moore, members of a Board, to inspect boilers belonging to and now on board the Iowa, with a view to their utilization on another vessel.

OFFICIAL advices have been received from Lieut. Comd. Gorringe, commanding the Gettysburg, dated at Beirut, Syria, Nov. 5, reporting that the shaft which had been repaired again broke at 6:45 P. M., Oct. 31, off Tantura. Since leaving Toulon, the Gettysburg had run 2,900 knots, and everything had worked admirably. With the port engine working at low pressure, Lieut. Comd. Gorringe expected to continue his work along the coast, and to be able in the course of three weeks to make the vessel entirely efficient.

MR. SAMUEL M. POOK, for many years naval constructor, was stricken with paralysis last Tuesday, at his residence, No. 269 Franklin avenue, Brooklyn, and died the same day. His funeral took place Wednesday Dec. 4, a number of naval officers attending. The remains were taken to Boston for interment. Mr. Pook was born in Massachusetts in 1804, and was apprenticed as a shipwright in the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1825. He was appointed a Naval Constructor in 1841, and retired from the service in 1867, with the relative rank of Captain, and has since lived in Brooklyn. His son, Mr. S. H. Pook, is also a Naval Constructor, and was recently in charge of that department at the Brooklyn yard.

FIRST LIEUT. SAMUEL K. ALLEN, U. S. M. C., has been detached from the Plymouth and granted sick leave for one year. For the present, his residence will be at Ridley Park, Penn.

THE Medical Corps of the Navy, will have many interviews with Congressmen this winter, as there is much legislation affecting them in anticipation.

A GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL composed of the field officers of the Marine Corps has been ordered to convene in Philadelphia, for the trial of Major Lucien L. Dawson, at present commanding the Marine Barracks, at Norfolk, Va., upon charges growing out of delinquencies in his affairs at League Island, discovered and reported by his successor, Lieut. Colonel T. Y. Field. It is understood that Major Dawson is not charged with any dishonesty, but with neglect of duty in failing to acquaint himself with the details of his command, and particularly with the receipt and issue of rations furnished by the contractor Mr. H. W. Hall, of Washington, who it is claimed has been largely overpaid.

NAVY GAZETTE.

ORDERED.

Nov. 29.—Commanders R. W. Meade and Montgomery Seward to temporary special duty at Washington on revision of the ordnance instructions.

Dec. 2.—Master Wm. P. Elliott, to the Nautical School ship Jamestown, at San Francisco, Cal.

Dec. 4.—Passed Assistant Engineer T. J. W. Cooper, to duty at the Navy-yard, League Island, Pa.

Dec. 5.—Lieutenant Seaton Schroeder, to the Hydrographic Office.

Ensign Warner H. Nostrand, to Coast Survey.

DETACHED.

Nov. 29.—Lieutenant-Commander F. M. Green, from the command of the Guard, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant Samuel Beddoe, Masters Corwin P. Rees and Downs L. Wilson; Ensigns J. C. Colwell, E. J. Dorn, and W. H. Nosstrand; Passed Assistant Surgeon J. C. Boyd, and Boatswain Wm. Long, from the Guard, and placed on waiting orders.

Assistant Paymaster C. J. Lewis, from the Guard, and ordered to settle accounts.

Midshipman R. T. Mulligan, from the Powhatan, and ordered to proceed home and wait orders.

Dec. 5.—Lieutenant William I. Moore, from Coast Survey, and placed on waiting orders.

Master Lewis C. Hellner, from the Colorado, and ordered to Coast Survey.

Master James H. Bull, from Coast Survey, and placed on waiting orders.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED.

To Passed Assistant Surgeon H. Aulick, attached to the receiving ship at the Navy-yard, League Island, for three weeks from December 6.

LIST OF DEATHS.

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Surgeon-General for the week ending December 4, 1878:

H. T. Hutchinson, carpenter's mate, Oct. 30, U. S. Coast Survey schooner Research, at Donaldsville, La.

Joseph H. Webster, corporal marines, November 20, Hospital, Portsmouth, N. H.

Garrison D. Bryant, marine, November 24, Naval Hospital, Washington.

Octavius Brown (colored), seaman, Nov. 26, Naval Hospital, Norfolk (Coast Survey schooner Drift).

James Brown, captain forecastle, December 1, U. S. S. Michigan, at Erie, Pa.

NAVAL NOMINATIONS SENT TO THE SENATE.

Captain Richard L. Lewis, a resident of Indiana, to be Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, with the relative rank of Commodore, in the Department of the Navy, from July 1, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Captain Earl English, a resident of New Jersey, to be Chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, with the relative rank of Commodore, in the Department of the Navy, from November 20, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Medical Director J. Winthrop Taylor, a resident of New Jersey, to be Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and Surgeon-General, with the relative rank of Commodore, in the Department of the Navy, from October 31, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Lieutenant-Commander Charles McGregor, a resident of Ohio, to be a Commander in the Navy from June 5, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Lieutenant-Commander Robby D. Evans, a resident of the District of Columbia, to be a Commander in the Navy from July 12, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Lieutenant George A. Converse, a resident of Vermont, to be a Lieutenant-Commander in the Navy from July 12, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Master Samuel P. Comley, a resident of New Jersey, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from April 26, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Master Sidney H. May, a resident of New Hampshire, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from May 9, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Master Hawley O. Rittenhouse, a resident of New Jersey, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from June 5, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Ensign Howard S. Warling, a resident of Ohio, to be a Master in the Navy from July 12, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Ensign Frank E. Sawyer, a resident of Massachusetts, to be a Master in the Navy from July 22, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Ensign Milton K. Schwenk, resident of Colorado, to be a Master in the Navy from October 23, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Midshipman John A. Sherman, resident of New York, to be an Ensign in the Navy from September 8, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Midshipman Fredk. B. Vinton, a resident of New York, to be an Ensign in the Navy from October 9, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Medical Inspector John M. Browne, a resident of California, to be a Medical Director in the Navy from October 6, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Surgeon John C. Spear, a resident of Delaware, to be a Medical Inspector in the Navy from October 6, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Henry Stewart, a resident of Louisiana, to be a Surgeon in the Navy from October 6, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Passed Assistant Paymaster Henry G. Colby, a resident of Vermont, to be a Paymaster in the Navy from September 6, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Passed Assistant Paymaster John R. Carmody, a resident of New York, to be a Paymaster in the Navy from October 23, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Assistant Paymaster John C. Sullivan, a resident of Ohio, to be a Passed Assistant Paymaster in the Navy from September 6, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Assistant Paymaster James E. Cann, a resident of Pennsylvania, to be a Passed Assistant Paymaster in the Navy from October 22, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Stephen K. Radford, a resident of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Paymaster in the Navy from July 6, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Passed Assistant Engineer George H. White, a resident of New Jersey, to be a Chief Engineer in the Navy from November 23, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Assistant Engineer James H. Perry, a resident of Connecticut, to be a Passed Assistant Engineer in the Navy from April 26, 1877, to fill a vacancy.

Assistant Engineer Wm. H. Nauman, a resident of Pennsylvania, to be a Passed Assistant Engineer in the Navy from February 24, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Cadet Engineer Edgar Warburton, a resident of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Engineer in the Navy from July 1, 1878, to fill a vacancy.

Such of the foregoing officers as have not qualified as provided by law to be subject to the required examinations before promotion.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

I have the honor to lay before you the regular annual report of the condition and operations of the Navy Department, including the expenditures of the last and the estimates for the next fiscal year.

Since the last annual report the condition of the Navy has been considerably improved. There are now in commission 28 cruising ships, 1 steamboat, and 5 sailing vessels, making 34 in all. These are in condition for active service, except the *Gettysburg*, now in the Mediterranean squadron, which, in consequence of deterioration in her iron plating and the recent breaking of a shaft, will probably require more repairs than it would be good economy to make. This will reduce the number to 33 now in commission as cruisers and needing no immediate repairs.

There are 6 vessels, including 1 monitor, recently put out of commission for repairs, all of which can be made ready for sea again in the course of a few months. The work will be done with all possible despatch. Besides these, there are 13 needing repairs somewhat more extensive and which it will require more time to make. But the whole of these 19 vessels can be repaired and put also in thorough condition with the present appropriations and those asked for the next fiscal year, and, therefore, without any additional charge upon the Treasury. That is, if the same appropriations shall be made for the next fiscal year as have been made for the present, the Department will be enabled to make the necessary repairs upon all these vessels, so that the number of cruisers will be to that extent increased. When this is accomplished the effective cruising force of the Navy will be 47 steam and 5 sailing ships, making the total number 52.

The number of monitors now ready for service is 13, and as the one recently put out of commission can be soon repaired, and the *Miantonomoh* can be completed out of existing appropriations, the number may be properly fixed at 15. Two torpedo boats are now also ready for service.

It will be seen, therefore, that without any increase of appropriations beyond what is asked for—that is, within the means under the control of the Department with the current appropriations—the total fighting force of the Navy will be 51 cruising ships, 15 monitors, and 2 torpedo boats, making in all 68.

But this does not show the whole naval force that could be put in service in case of necessity. The 4 double-turreted monitors and 1 single-turreted now in progress—the *Puritan*, *Amphitrite*, *Monadnock*, *Dic-tator*, and *Terror*—could be completed without much delay, with the necessary appropriations for that purpose. Six cruising ships, upon which repairs are not at present contemplated—the *Codrado*, *Wabash*, *Franklin*, *Florida*, *Minnesota*, and *New York*—could be soon put in condition as fighting ships if necessary required it. And this being done, the fighting force of the Navy would be 57 cruising ships, 20 monitors, and 2 torpedo boats, to which could be added, in case of imminent necessity, 2 other steam and 3 sailing vessels, thus making the total number 83. The number might still be increased, however, by utilizing 8 large iron tugs, of over 300 tons each, now at the Navy yards and other stations, which could be converted into gun or torpedo boats, and thus make the whole number of war vessels of all classes 91.

There are 33 steam and sailing vessels now unfit for use for warlike purposes, although 4 of these might, if necessity demanded, be put in condition for temporary service at sea. Of these, 4 have been in use nearly 60 years, having been built before the year 1820, and 15 were built before the war, leaving 14 only that have been built and 2 that were purchased since the beginning of the war. Of those built during the war, 10 were constructed with great rapidity and under the pressure of the most urgent necessity, and consequently out of timber not sufficiently seasoned to insure their durability, even to the average life of other vessels. Their decay, therefore, has been unavoidably rapid. And as it would not be good economy to undertake the repair of vessels so far decayed as the greater part of these now are, it would be better that they should be sold or broken up, and authority conferred upon the Department to use the proceeds for the repair of such other vessels as may need them, so as to keep the Navy in its present condition of efficiency, as nearly as possible, without additional drafts upon the Treasury. To this number of vessels unfit for fighting purposes may be added 4 iron-clads, which should also be disposed of in the same way. If, then, there should be added to the fund thus produced the proceeds of the sales of waste material, the business of the Department would be greatly facilitated without new appropriations.

SQUADRONS

[We omit the description of the composition of the squadrons. Ed.]

The ships not embraced by assignments to these squadrons are as follows: The *Ticonderoga*, *Franklin*, *Vandalia*, *Marion*, *Constellation*, *Constitution*, *Portsmouth*, *Saratoga*, *Guard*, *Tallapoosa*, and *Michigan*. The *Vandalia* and *Marion*, upon their return, will be refitted for sea immediately. The *Constellation* remains in service at the Naval Academy. The *Constitution* and *Portsmouth* are at *Havre*, France, in attendance upon the Paris Exposition, and will return home in December. The *Saratoga* has been fully repaired, and is used as a training-ship. The *Franklin* is still a receiving-ship. The *Guard* has just returned home and will need repairs. The *Tallapoosa* is engaged as a transport vessel between the Navy-yards on the Atlantic.

The *Ticonderoga* has been detailed, under the command of Commodore R. W. Shufeldt, for special service upon the coast of Africa and in the East Indian Islands. This service is regarded as specially important in its relations, not merely to international matters confided to it, but to our commercial interests. The officer assigned to this command is peculiarly fitted for the delicate duty confided to him, and the most satisfactory results are expected from his cruise. Besides his other duties, he has been designated to act as a commissioner to adjust a controversy in reference to the boundary-line between the British possessions in Africa and Liberia.

An expedition of a character somewhat kindred to this was fitted out during last summer with the Enterprise, under the command of Thomas O. Selfridge. Realizing the obligation of omitting nothing in its power to open up commercial intercourse between all parts of South America and the United States, the Department directed a survey of the Amazon and

Madeira Rivers. The importance of these rivers as natural outlets for the internal commerce of that country cannot be overestimated. They connect Bolivia with the Atlantic; and the people of that country are beginning to realize the benefits they will derive from an encouragement of their navigation. A company organized in the United States is now engaged in constructing a railroad around the falls of the Madeira, which, when completed, will enable our merchants to carry on a large and profitable trade with the interior. It was deemed important that, before this trade should be developed, the people of Bolivia should be convinced that it would be to the mutual advantage of both countries if commercial intercourse were established between them and the people of the United States.

The expedition was a success in an eminent degree, and reflects the highest credit upon all the officers who had it in charge and upon the crew of the Enterprise.

The results are both interesting and instructive, and it is hoped that Congress will provide for the publication of the report of Commander Selfridge.

The city of Para has a population of about 30,000 inhabitants, and bears the same relation to the Amazon River that New Orleans does to the Mississippi. Its trade will continue to increase as the interior of the country is developed, which, under the liberal policy of the Emperor of Brazil, is now assured. The mouth of the Madeira River is 980 miles above the city of Para, and from there to the falls of this river is navigable for steamers of ten feet draught a distance of 1,000 miles. The falls are about 300 miles in length, and when the railroad is completed and the difficulty of passing them removed, easy access to large rivers which flow through Bolivia will be had. The Amazon is a river of extraordinary dimensions, and a line-of-battle ship can easily ascend it for 1,500 miles from the sea. At a distance of 900 miles from its mouth it has a depth of 50 fathoms. As there is no difficulty about the navigation of this great river, this survey will serve to show its dimensions, and the maps of the Madeira will enable steamers to ascend it at the periods of safe navigation, without relying upon local pilots. It is confidently expected that the most beneficial results will follow this expedition and report.

The Michigan has been employed for a number of years upon the northern lakes. The question whether or no the arrangement of April 28, 1817, in reference to the naval forces of Great Britain and the United States on the lakes remains still in force or has been terminated by the joint resolution of Congress approved February 9, 1865, must rest upon the decision of Congress. The diplomatic engagements between the two governments since the passage of the joint resolution have been considered directory to the Department, and in consequence the Michigan has been kept in commission and continued in the service for which she was designed. The vessel is now very much out of repair, and requires extensive work to be done upon her in order to keep her in condition for service. If the obligation of 1817 remains in force, this would require a large expenditure of money, and it would probably be more economical to sell her, and apply the proceeds, as far as they would go, to building a new ship for this special service. These questions are respectfully submitted to Congress.

ESTIMATES.

The appropriations of the present year having been thus far, like those of the last, applied to the ordinary expenses of the service and to such repairs of vessels as are absolutely necessary, and it having been found that they are sufficient for this purpose, the Department has not felt itself justified in going beyond them in the estimates for the next fiscal year. These estimates are shown by the following table:

Pay of the Navy.....	\$7,350,000 00
Pay of civil establishments in Navy-yards.....	189,999 50
Ordnance and Torpedo Corps.....	273,000 00
Coal, hemp, and equipment.....	800,000 00
Navigation and navigation supplies.....	104,500 00
Hydrographic work.....	46,000 00
Naval Observatory, Nautical Almanac.....	43,800 00
Repairs and preservation of vessels.....	1,500,000 00
Steam-machinery, tools, etc.....	800,000 00
Provisions for the Navy.....	1,300,000 00
Repairs of hospitals and laboratories.....	30,000 00
Surgeons' necessities and Naval Hospital fund.....	95,000 00
Contingent expenses of department and bureaus.....	205,000 00
Naval Academy.....	186,894 45
Support of Marine Corps.....	862,378 50
Naval Asylum, Philadelphia.....	60,829 00
Maintenance of yards and docks.....	440,000 00
Repairs, etc., of Navy-yards.....	375,000 00
	\$14,562,381 45

It will be observed that the total of this amount is \$33,949,75 in excess of the appropriations for the present year. This is for the benefit of the Marine Corps and the Naval Academy. The former is made up of amounts necessary on account of the longevity pay officers and privates, that of officers on the retired list, pay of clerks and messengers, pay to soldiers for clothing undrawn, increase of pay for leader of the band and commissary of officers' quarters. The latter is made up of amounts necessary for pay of one mechanic on account of enlargement of laboratory, a small increase of pay to the captain of the watch, on account of his having also to perform other duties, an increase for the expenses of the Board of Visitors, and pay of an additional mechanist necessary in the department of steam engineering. No part of the excess is on account of the Navy proper.

EXPENDITURES.

The amount of appropriations applicable to the current expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, was \$14,435,152.30. The actual expenses, exclusive of deficiencies, during that period were \$13,306,914.04. Of the unexpended balance on hand June 30, 1878, there remains \$501,272.09 to the credit of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, Yards, and Docks, Ordnance, Navigation, Construction and Repair, Steam Engineering, Provisions and Clothing, and Medicine and Surgery.

The appropriations available for the present fiscal year, commencing July 1, 1878, are \$14,528,431.10. The whole amount drawn from the Treasury from July 1 to November 1, 1878, is \$4,740,544.14; refunded same period, \$70,980.75; which deducted from the amount drawn will show the actual expenditure from July 1 to November 1, 1878, to have been \$4,669,563.39. Expenditure during the same period last year was \$5,190,462.63, showing that of the present year to have been \$50,899.24 less than last year.

Appropriations for 1878-'79.

1878, July 24, Appropriation warrant No. 316-1878-\$14,092,622 70
1878, July 30, Appropriation warrant No. 317-1878-375,000 70
Naval Asylum, Philadelphia-1879-60,829 00

Total.....

\$14,528,431.10

From these tables [these tables, which we omit, show the expenditures by month. The totals here.—Ed.] it will be seen that the total expenditures of the last fiscal year, including the amount appropriated for the deficiencies of the previous year, were \$17,468,392.65. After deducting these deficiencies, which were \$1,161,475.56, the amount chargeable to the expenditures of the year was \$13,306,914.04, as stated in the tables, which was \$767,199.18 less than the actual expenses of the previous year, and \$4,925,677.74 less than the expenditures including the deficiencies of the year, and \$4,630,440.63 less than the expenditures of the year ending June 30, 1876.

NAVY PENSION FUND.

The following statement shows the number and yearly amount of pensions on the rolls June 30, 1878, and the amount paid during the fiscal year:

On roll	Yearly Va-	Am't paid
	lue.	for pensions
Navy invalids.....	1,751	\$20,944 08
Navy widows and others.....	1,705	305,820 60
		302,989 49
Total.....	3,486	\$206,234 68
		\$502,970 91

It will be seen by comparing this statement with that of the last fiscal year that the number of pensioners has increased 47, and that the sum they are entitled to draw has increased \$26,576.55, while the total amount actually paid to pensioners has decreased \$24,979.64.

[The Secretary gives a history of the fund and says:]

Inasmuch as the obligation of the Government, established when the fund was created, remains unimpaired, it is respectfully recommended that the interest be hereafter increased to at least four per cent., so that the investments may be made in bonds of that class. Navy pensioners are entitled, upon the fund withdrawn from their prize-money, to the same interest as that paid to the public creditors.

BUREAUS.

It is due to the bureaus of the department that special attention should be called to their several reports, wherein the details of the work done by them during the year are given. They show an amount which could not have been accomplished without the almost watchfulness and care on the part of the officers in charge of these bureaus. And the economy practiced in their disbursements cannot fail to arrest attention. The total balance standing to their credit at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, as previously stated, was \$501,272.10, made up in favor of each bureau as follows:

Yards and Docks.....	\$40,665 84
Equipment and Recruiting.....	238,879 20
Navigation.....	94,730 21
Ordnance.....	18,536 88
Construction and Repair.....	37,983 73
Steam Engineering.....	28,230 09
Provisions and Clothing.....	102,736 93
Medicine and Surgery.....	9,539 21

Total \$501,272 10

It is also due to the Bureaus of Construction and Repair and Steam Engineering to refer to the amount of work they have respectively done in repairing ships, engines, boilers, etc., all of which is especially set forth in their reports. Seventy-five vessels have been more or less repaired, according to their condition, and ten of them have been thoroughly repaired, together with engines and boilers, and made ready for sea. Two others, the *Nipissing* and *Galeana*, are in rapid progress toward completion. The machinery of every vessel repaired has been thoroughly overhauled and put in the best condition, and the policy of substituting four-bladed screw propellers for the various types of two-bladed and patent screws has been initiated. These changes have been attended with the best results, an increased speed of from one to two and a half knots per hour having been obtained, without increase of engine power developed. It is designed to continue these changes until all our vessels are fitted with this type of propeller.

RELATIONS OF THE NAVY TO COMMERCE.

The Secretary considers this subject at length, concluding: If it is to become a part of our settled policy that our commercial marine shall remain in this condition of inferiority upon the ocean, and this drain upon our wealth is to continue, we shall be left to decide the future of our Navy with reference only to the possibility of war with foreign powers and to the means of our national defence by proper protection to our coasts and harbors. In this event, our industrial interests must be left to suffer still further injury. Our iron, coal, and timber will decrease in value. The enormous freights we now pay will continue to press upon the producers of our surplus exports. Our merchant vessels will, in the end, be entirely driven from the sea. And such unjust and ruinous limitation will then be put upon the enterprise of our people that their inventive genius will be restrained and their labor left without just reward. If all this is to be accomplished, the policy which produces it must be based upon the idea that the Navy bears no relation whatever to our commerce, and that the latter can reach every part of the world and encounter all the rivalries and vicissitudes of trade without any protection from it.

If, on the other hand, the Government shall adopt such measures as shall put the country in a position to reap the full benefits of its commercial enterprise and secure the profits of our own carrying trade, which properly belong to us, by means of such fostering care as the national Government alone has power to give, then our Navy should have such strength and character given to it that it will be able to furnish protection to our commerce wheresoever it may be needed.

Our present Navy is or can be made, without any other than the current annual appropriations, according to the expenditures of the last and the estimates for the present and next fiscal year, amply sufficient to protect our commerce in the present stage of its development. But as our surplus productions are annually increasing, and must be transported to foreign markets or become a total loss in our own hands, the question whether or no the Navy shall be improved so as to provide for this state of anticipated development must either now or at some time in the near future be decided by Congress. Although it cannot be properly considered without reference to the condition of the Treasury and its ability to supply additional appropriations, yet it becomes an important factor in deciding it to remember that if even the \$90,000,000 paid for freights during the last fiscal year to vessels sailing under foreign flags had been retained at home and allowed to become part of our national wealth, our ability to meet and overcome the embarrassments of trade would have been proportionately increased. This sum, if saved and judiciously expended, would alone be sufficient to make our mercantile marine equal to that of Great Britain and our Navy superior to any in the world. By mistaken and injurious policy therefore, we have suffered the legitimate fruits of our commerce to be enjoyed by others, and an amount of money to be withdrawn from us and carried abroad in a single year sufficient to accomplish both these results. Whether we consider the present condition of the nations or our own prospective greatness as a people, it is necessary that this policy shall be changed at the earliest possible moment when the financial condition of the country will allow it to be done.

PAY OF THE NAVY.

The difficulties attending a precise adjustment of the pay of the Navy appropriations are of long standing, and some of them seem almost insurmountable. It is believed that more accurate results have been reached during the last year than ever before, but it will require time to give the new system of accounts, authorized by the act of the last session of Congress, a fair trial. In all that is said upon this subject, it should be borne in mind that the methods of accounting heretofore prevailing have had the sanction of long usage, and must, necessarily, have more or less influence upon the results attempted to be reached each year.

[The Secretary explains at length the present system, and says:]

Heretofore the appropriations for pay of the Navy have been based upon estimates of the total earnings of the officers and men arising during the year, and the law requires that the earnings of a given particular year shall be paid only from the money appropriated for that year. This requires that money earned during a deuced year, but for any reason not paid, shall be kept separate in the accounts of disbursing officers and on the books of the department, and be carried on from quarter to quarter as a distinct liability for that particular year. The amount of money due and to be appropriated, must, therefore, be determined by calculation of the earnings on the pay rolls, and the amount "remaining unpaid" must form a separate item in the dealings of subsequent "total credits." The difficulty of a precisely accurate statement is at once appreciated, when the preceding complications of settlement are taken into consideration.

In the summary for the year 1877-'78, the last fiscal year, it is found that there was remaining due officers and men on July 1, 1878, the sum of \$694,080 94, and this may be taken as the average running liability of the Government for payments to be met at future indefinite periods; but in order to keep the account strictly correct, the exact amount due each officer and man should be accurately stated, and the balance should be held to pay these persons only. As, however, any legitimate claim may be paid for an amount due on account of misconstruction of law or short payment of any kind not estimated for nor forming a part of the balance on hand at that date, each payment of any such claim depleted the remaining part of the appropriation and makes an actual deficiency, because every person owning a share of the balance held could not then receive his part if payment was afterwards attempted to be made in full to all concerned. This condition of payments from balances has always been a hidden leech upon the pay of the Navy fund.

A fair settlement is now being made with the fiscal year of 1877-'78. The account shows economy and care, and demonstrates that at the end of the year no deficiency existed. But, at the same time, the actual final liability of that year cannot be arrived at precisely until every class and individual claim has been satisfied and every suspension removed. The legislation

for the current year was wise in the purpose to have "Pay of Navy" stand upon its own bottom, to have each grade of officers provided for minutely and by itself, and to have each class of expenditures distinctly appropriated for, in order to reach a definite settlement and have a full allowance of pay to every officer and man in the service.

But the complications of settlements, under the new law, have been much greater than they were before, and the prospect of closing the cash accounts of the multitude of appropriations has been removed to a more distant day than by former methods under the old law.

The only practicable mode of obviating the difficulty is to base the estimates and appropriations upon the amount of money actually required to meet the cash demands of the year involved, as has been done for the present year; that is, to appropriate a sufficient sum to pay currently the annual allowance without reference to the year it is needed. The officers are paid from month to month what the pay rolls show to be due them. They cannot be paid more, because their pay is established by law. In cases of claims for past differences and arrears of pay, the course of payment is provided for by law. The whole plan secures the incidental advantage of having a current balance in the Treasury for use in "General Account."

By this method an accurate statement can be arrived at every year between the expenditures by the rolls and the cash appropriation accounts. The expenditures by the rolls and by vouchers, being the amounts actually paid in money, and not the total earnings, must correspond with the amounts drawn by regulations. Submissions, disallowances, and balances due from year to year will work out their own adjustment. They will not interfere with or complicate the yearly calculations and appropriation settlements. An exhibit of expenditures now required by law will afford the Secretary of the Navy and Congress all the information needed for intelligent action in reference to estimates, appropriations, and legislation. If it should be objected that the exact amount of money to be appropriated for a year cannot be ascertained, the objection would be met and overcome by giving a margin under "pay miscellaneous," similar to the excess for pay this year—say the sum of \$300,000—with the requirement that the balance on hand at the close of the fiscal year should revert to the Treasury.

SMALL STORES.

It is deemed appropriate to consider separately the subject of "small stores" for the naval service, although it has been directly connected with and in substance an actual factor of the appropriation pay of the Navy. There are manifest reasons why the account should be changed, and this be made a fund or appropriation by itself. Its association with pay of the Navy seems to have been accidental, and it has served to embarrass that appropriation by contributing to its deficiencies, without being of the slightest advantage to the appropriation or the mode of distributing stores as a matter of business.

[The Secretary, after explaining the origin of this association, continues:]

This is all well enough so far, but small stores are bought and placed on board ship at a certain money valuation, and it is meant that they shall be converted into money, and that the appropriation paying for the stores shall be fully reimbursed. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The sum of \$1,000 is expended for small stores, representing \$1,000 in money for the pay of the men. Nearly every paymaster meets with more or less of loss on issued, by natural shrinkage in weight, or by the waste of millieu, or other destructive elements. When the \$1,000 comes to be paid out in stores it is found that, say, \$100 in value is waste and condemned stores. Only \$900 are paid to the men in stores, and \$100 are lost and thrown overboard. To replenish the stores for further issue \$1,000 in money is again taken and paid. The small stores account does not suffer, because the full value of \$1,000 is returned, but the appropriation providing the money is \$100 out—that much short.

A gain, percentage is allowed disbursing officers for ordinary losses on issue in dealing out small quantities, but Congress has never undertaken to provide that a sum equal to the loss should be appropriated to the fund or appropriation sustaining the money loss. Packages of stores lost entirely, the value of which is never recovered, are not again represented in the appropriation account. The loss forms a deficiency, which is neither tangible nor defined. A part of the former deficiency in pay of the Navy was undoubtedly caused by such losses, which have never come to light so far as the appropriation is concerned. Therefore, to relieve the standard appropriations of such uncertain charges, and to enable the department and accounting officers to make a definite settlement with "small stores," the money hereafter received for the issue and sale of these stores should be covered into the Treasury, under the proper head of "small stores," and expenditures to replenish the stock should be made from that fund, and no longer from the regular appropriations for pay of the Navy or any other than the specific fund designated for that purpose.

NAVAL ACADEMY.

The attention of Congress is specially invited to the report of the Board of Visitors to the Naval Academy, wherein it is shown that this admirable institution continues to entitle itself to the public favor. The system of education is complete in all its departments, and as the means of fitting the cadets for official position in the Navy, cannot be too highly appreciated. In all the departments of study the proficiency of the cadets is in the highest degree satisfactory. In order, however, to assure more efficiency in that of seamanship, navigation, and gunnery, it is deemed expedient to make the exercises somewhat more practical, by adding to the military drills on shore evolutions upon the water similar to those practiced upon vessels at sea. It is believed that by this means cadet midshipmen will be better prepared to profit by their practice cruise, and that, when they reach the grade of masters at the end of two years after graduation, they will be more competent to discharge their duties on board men-of-war at sea. These duties involve both theoretical and practical knowledge of seamanship, and upon the manner and efficiency of their discharge the safety of both vessels and crews may frequently depend.

Steps have been taken to inaugurate this method of discipline and training, and the department expects to be able, with the means at its control and without any special appropriation for that purpose, to perfect it within a reasonable time. It will require one or two sailing vessels and several steam launches. One of the latter has already been supplied, and when others are put in readiness, these vessels will furnish the means of affording instruction to cadet engineers in the practical duties of their profession, and the cadets generally will be exercised in steam tactics, of which they have hitherto been deprived by the absence of these facilities.

It is proper to be said that much of the success of this institution is owing to the indefatigable exertions and eminent ability of the distinguished naval officers who have held the position of superintendent, and to the high scientific and professional attainments of the academic board. The rare executive ability of the late Superintendent is especially worthy of notice; but inasmuch as the necessities of the Service have required that he should be assigned to a broader field of official duty, as the commander-in-chief of the Pacific squadron, the department congratulates itself that it has been enabled to supply his place by an officer equally competent and meritorious; one who, by professional training, long experience, and untiring devotion to duty, has displayed the highest qualifications for the position. From his labors and those of the distinguished gentlemen who compose the present academic board there may be reasonably expected to flow the most decided advantages in the future of this national institution. Devoted as they are to the work intrusted to them, and laboring to omit nothing necessary to the personal comfort and professional culture of the cadets under their charge, the institution cannot fail, under their management, to command it self still further to Congress and the country as worthy in the highest degree of such protection and care as shall be necessary to give it additional efficiency in supplying the Navy with its future officers.

It is desirable in the highest degree that special care should be taken in the professional training and education of naval constructors. Well educated and competent constructors are absolutely necessary for the Navy. They are not only required to devise plans of vessels, but to lay down their lines, calculate their tonnage and displacement, estimate their speed, adjust their capacity for carrying batteries, and, in fact to ascertain beforehand, with absolute accuracy, what the vessel when finished will be capable of doing. The details necessary in all this are exceedingly minute, and the scientific attainments required are of the highest character. The performance of these duties can-

not safely be intrusted to incompetent men, and therefore all the leading governments have given special attention to the education of the constructors of their ships of war.

If we are to meet these governments upon terms of equality upon the ocean, either in peace or war, we should be prepared to do so with ships equal to theirs both in sailing and fighting qualities. There is but one way of doing this, and that is by providing a corps of competent naval constructors. The law, as it now stands, makes no provision for the education of such a corps, and I feel it to be my duty to renew the recommendation in my last annual report on this subject. The provisions of the statute having reference to engineers, with a few necessary modifications, if applied to constructors, would accomplish the desired object, and they could be educated at the Academy, like cadet engineers, with special reference to the details of their professional duty. Every argument in favor of building model engines by cadets applies with equal force to the construction of model ships.

NAVY-YARDS.

The limited means placed at the disposal of the department for the preservation and repair of the several navy-yards have been disposed of during the year with commendable discretion on the part of the officers having them in charge. Rigid economy has been practiced, and no other work has been done than what was found necessary to prevent decay and waste. Like appropriations for the next fiscal year will be similarly applied, if it is the pleasure of Congress that the yards shall be no further improved; and the estimates have been made with this view; although the department feels constrained to say that this will leave many of them without improvements considered absolutely necessary and greatly expose the public property to damage.

The nature of the expenditures will appear from the following detailed statement, and a more satisfactory explanation of them will be found in the accompanying report of the Bureau of Yards and Docks. [This information has been given in the synopsis of this report, already published.]

DOUBLE-TURRETED MONITORS.

Congress, by an act approved June 23, 1874, authorized the expenditure of \$849,045 for completing the repairs of such double-turreted monitors as the Secretary of the Navy should select, having in view more ample protection to our harbors and leading commercial cities. The object demanded immediate attention.

The duty imposed upon the department was imperative, in so far as the construction of the vessels was concerned, but the plans upon which they were to be rebuilt was left to its discretion. And, consequently, the incipient step was to determine with reference to their fitness for naval warfare, and in view of the progress made at that time in naval architecture. Such monitors as we then had were considered equal to any of their class in the world, but as they were all single-turreted and carried but two guns each, it was essential that the additional displacement required by these new structures should be decided in order to secure to them the necessary effectiveness of war-vessels, and, at the same time, the capacity to carry with safety the additional weight occasioned by double turrets of increased thickness of iron and four guns.

The leading nations, especially Great Britain and Italy, have experienced difficulties in constructing their great armored ships, and have expended enormous sums of money in various experiments, many of which have proved unsatisfactory. When the plans of the five new monitors, the Amphitrite, Miantonomoh, Puritan, Monadnock, and Terror, were decided on, nine of the experiments made by these nations had promised more favorable results than might reasonably have been expected from ours. And it may well be questioned whether their subsequent experiments have done so, except in so far as their large guns and improved projectiles have shown the capacity to pierce through heavier iron plating than could then have been done. They have established the fact, however, that a steel projectile, weighing 80 pounds, can be driven through iron armor of 10 inches in thickness, with 33 pounds of powder; and armor of 11 inches with an increase of 3 pounds of powder, fired from a gun weighing 35 tons. With the gun increased to 80 tons and the powder to 100 pounds, 30 inches may be penetrated; and it is to provide for this contingency that these governments are now constructing their large armored vessels. They have, consequently, increased the thickness of their armor from 10, 12, 14 to 24 inches, and the displacement, as in the case of the English ship Inflexible, to 11,407 tons. Some idea of the cost of such vessels of war may be formed when it is stated that one of the 80-ton guns of the Inflexible was estimated to cost \$72,000, which would make the cost of the four \$288,000. Ten shots from each of these guns will cost about \$6,320 for powder and projectiles. But as the department had none of these experiments before it to guide its action, it had the difficult task to perform of deciding upon the plans of these monitors with the lights before it. And it may be confidently asserted that its decision, when reached, had about it as few if not fewer defects than have attended any like decision in Europe.

It should be observed that, in these European experiments, both guns and targets have been stationary, the results being shown only when the projectile strikes the object aimed at. The process of firing by one ship at another when both are in motion is a different thing. In this case the gun will lose none of its power, but the same accuracy of firing cannot be obtained. And, consequently, it is yet doubtful whether these large expenditures are justifiable, when it is considered that where one projectile will fall to do so. Yet the department has, at the same time, considered it to be its duty to profit by them as far as possible, in order to make our means of naval defence and attack equal to those of any other nation.

The turrets already constructed for the Miantonomoh are 10% inches of laminated iron plating. In addition, it is proposed to band them with an iron plating 5 inches in thickness, so that, when completed, their entire thickness will be 15% inches. This, however, will not possess the resisting power of that number of inches of solid iron—that of laminated compared with solid plating being about sixty-six one-hundredths to one inch. These turrets, therefore, will have the resisting power of 10% inches of solid iron. It is believed that, for present purposes, this will be ample. The armor of this ship will be 7 inches of solid iron, so that its resisting power will be 3% inches less than that of the turrets. It is designed to have her ready for a trial trip at sea during the present winter months, so that her qualities may be tested before the turrets are placed on deck. It is believed, also, that the money already appropriated will be sufficient for her completion, which will be done without unnecessary delay. In the mean time the experiments now in progress in Europe will be carefully noted, so that their results may be made available as far as possible in the completion of the Amphitrite, Puritan, Monadnock, and Terror. Of these vessels the Puritan will be far in advance of the others in her means of defense. She will have 11 inches of solid iron armor and 15 inches of solid iron turrets. When finished she will be one of the best monitors afloat, and probably superior to any war-vessel of her draught of water yet built. For the completion of these vessels additional appropriations must be made. When this is done and these five armored ships are finished according to the original intention of Congress, the Navy will possess 15 single-turreted monitors with two guns each, and five double-turreted with four guns each, making in all 50 guns. And with these floating fortifications added to our other effective naval force, we may confidently rely upon our ability to protect our harbors and large commercial cities against the most formidable fleets in the world.

It should be remarked, however, that in order to complete the power of the monitors for the defense of our harbors, it is necessary that rifled cannon should be substituted for the 15-inch smooth-bores they now carry, which are ineffective against armor of more than 6 inches in thickness. Rifled cannon of 10 inches, of about the same weight, would penetrate the side of any vessel likely to be employed on our coast. The attention of Congress is respectfully called to these facts, so that when an appropriation is made for completing these vessels, these considerations shall not be lost sight of.

TORPEDOES.

The torpedo has become absolutely essential to the effectiveness of any modern system of naval warfare. This terrible instrument has been carried to such perfection that a small shell filled with a few handfuls of composition will utterly destroy the largest ship in the world. When Fulton, in 1810, brought to the notice of the President and Congress the fact that he had, several years before, destroyed a brig of 300 tons by the explosion of a torpedo, the scientific world was incredulous; but the experience of the present verifies the value of his invention and the truth of his predictions. And now the great nations vie with each other in their efforts to add to the destructiveness of the torpedo for purposes both of attack and defense. Our discoveries thus far have equalled, if they

have not surpassed, those of other countries, and our naval officers engaged at the torpedo station at Newport furnish almost daily evidence of their ingenuity and proficiency. The Ordnance Bureau has availed itself of every means at its command to facilitate the necessary experiments and inventions, and these, made at comparatively small cost, have already been so perfected as to promise increased improvement in the future.

The torpedo can be easily exploded below the water, as upon its surface, by either conduction or electricity; and by whichever of these modes it may be done, it is probably as effective for the defense of harbors and ships as it ever will be. What is desired is to make it more effective for attack, so as to destroy an enemy before he can approach too near. To a certain extent our torpedo-boat, the Alarm, can, with an increase of speed, be relied on for this; and she is, within a radius of 15 feet from her hull, a most formidable vessel of war. It would require but few of such ships to destroy an entire fleet of ordinary steam or sailing vessels. But even the Alarm leaves unaccounted what is so much desired in naval warfare, that is, the means of sending out the torpedo to such a distance upon the water as to cut off an enemy entirely before he approaches too near. Our experiments have led to the belief that this may be done, with reasonable certainty and within a reasonable distance, by boats carrying torpedoes and steered by electricity, either from the shore or the deck of a ship. As these boats would have neither officers nor seamen on board, but if successful the vessel with which they would come in contact, whether large or small, would be inevitably and immediately destroyed. Other experiments are in progress by which it is expected that a rocket-torpedo may be forced upon the water for a considerable distance, to be determined by the strength and quantity of the powder used, and exploded upon coming in contact with an enemy, dropping the torpedo under the water and firing it below the line of the vessel's armor. This, if accomplished, would be equally destructive. Yet another plan has almost if not entirely reached the point of actual demonstration. This is by means of a steam-launch, possessing extraordinary speed, so arranged that the explosion of the torpedo may be made to take place while the launch is at full speed, so that two men, if they can escape the balls of an enemy, may pass entirely through a fleet and destroy every ship they succeed in reaching.

Captain Ericsson has constructed a partially submerged and armored vessel, intended for greater speed than any iron-clad, and capable of projecting a submarine shell with great velocity and accuracy to a distance of 300 or 400 yards, which is probably as far as any offensive torpedo is likely to be effective at sea. Some preliminary trials have been made by the inventor, and a board has been ordered by the department, at his request, for an official trial when it is ready for service. The same torpedo can be effectively employed from any vessel fitted with a tube above or below the water and the machinery for ejecting the torpedo.

If the practicability of all or any one of these experiments shall be established, our monitors and torpedo-boats will furnish the amplest protection to all our harbors against any possible enemy, no matter what the size or character of the attacking ships. And inasmuch as we have been the pioneers in this mode of naval warfare, and have produced most satisfactory results from our experiments thus far, the department cannot withhold the expression of the hope that Congress will deal liberally with this branch of the service.

TRAINING SYSTEM.

Too much importance cannot be attached to the system of educating boys for the purpose of manning ships of war with trained seamen. It is now in operation in every navy in Europe. In England it has been found inexpedient to rely upon the merchant marine for the supply of sailors on men-of-war, chiefly because they are not trained to handling guns and small-arms, especially those in modern use. Consequently the compulsory power to withdraw seamen from merchant-ships has been taken away, and the system of instructing boys upon training-ships substituted for it. By this means, in the opinion of the British admiralty, there has been supplied to the British navy a considerable number of the best seamen in the world, who are fully competent for all their duties when first entering upon a cruise at sea. The Crimean war found the British navy almost demoralized or at least very much crippled, for the want of men. The government was, therefore, forced to adopt this system, and the result has been that its navy of 30,000 men is now manned exclusively from its training-ships. During the Franco-Prussian war, when the French Government found its ships unavailable for active warfare upon the sea, it manned the batteries of Paris with its trained seamen-gunners, and they were found as effective in this duty as the regulars of the army. It will be seen from these examples that a government, by means of this system, will always have at its command a force equally effective ashore as afloat. Besides, it is a permanent force, available for any class or kind of ships. These change with the progress of naval art, and frequently in this inventive age, when experiments are developing new results almost every day; but the men who govern their movements and work their guns remain always the same—are efficient in proportion to their military training. Nor ought we to lose sight of the fact that this system creates a sense of patriotism and veneration for the national flag, which can neither be obtained, nor ought to be expected, from heterogeneous crews, picked up in various seaports without regard to their antecedents or nationality.

Actuated by these and kindred considerations, the department in April, 1875, issued a circular order directing that, under the Revised Statutes, sections 1418, 1419, 1420, boys between fifteen and eighteen years should be enlisted in the Navy, to serve until they were twenty-one years of age, and designated certain ships for training purposes. Boys have been received on board these ships, all duly deducting the number received from the actual force of men allowed for the Navy, until, at the present time, the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting reports that 600 of them, after receiving one year's training, have already passed into the general naval service, where, from the uniform testimony of their commanding officers, they are now performing their duties manfully and well.

From our own experience, therefore, as well as the more mature experience of other nations, it is manifest that yet more important advantages may be expected to result from this training system, if persevered in.

I feel it my duty, consequently, to call attention to the recommendations upon this subject contained in my last annual report, and to invite for the system the protection of Congress. In order to perfect and place it upon a permanent basis, it will require the enactment of a law authorizing the enlistment of 750 boys annually, at an expense not exceeding \$90,000 per annum, for the purpose of manning the Navy with an intelligent, thoroughly trained and educated class of American seamen, who will feel all the responsibilities and obligations of citizenship. It matters not where these boys are born, their training under the national flag will instill into their minds the duty of its protection against all possible foes.

In this connection I have also the honor to recommend that hereafter all warrant officers of the Navy be appointed from the most intelligent and deserving of these boys; and if, in addition to the introduction of these well educated and trained boys into the grade of warrant officers, recognized rank could be given, as in the English navy, that corps would soon recover from the disrepute into which it has somewhat fallen on account of the professional and physical incompetency of some of its members. And this would, besides, present to the boys a legitimate object of ambition, which would be constantly present in their minds to stimulate them.

Should Congress decide to authorize by legislation the perfection of this system, and thus place it upon a permanent basis, the Department will exercise all necessary care in the selection of the boys and in distributing the enlistment through all parts of the country. By this means the Navy will not be left to represent, as it now does, in its personnel, only the narrow limits of the seaboard and almost every nationality, but will draw that important element of its organization, the "rank and file," from the vigorous and intrepid young men of the whole country. And it will thereby acquire a character of nationality which it will carry with it wherever our ships shall sail.

NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

[The Secretary refers to the action taken for the removal of the Naval Observatory, and shows the necessity for it.—Ed.]

MARINE CORPS.

This important arm of the naval service deserves the special consideration of Congress. Without the support it has always rendered when called on, the Navy would be deprived, in a great degree, of its strength and military efficiency. The law, as it now stands, authorizes the enlistment of a sufficient number of privates, but as this cannot be done without appropriations necessary for the purpose, it is recommended that whatever appropriations are made shall have reference to that object. The number is now so limited that it is exceedingly difficult to supply ships at sea, yards, and

stations with the necessary number of men; and unless the department has power to do this the public service must suffer.

The attention of Congress is called to the report of the commandant of this corps. Its wants and necessities are therein set forth. Without specifying any of the points embraced in it, the department commands them to the attention of Congress. And inasmuch as the appropriations called for are so small, compared with the services rendered by the corps, it cannot refrain from expressing the hope that they may be well considered and liberally dealt with by Congress.

NAVAL PROPERTY.

During the eighty-two years, from 1794 to 1876, inclusive, there has been expended the aggregate sum of \$418,650,433.51, on account of Ordnance, Yards and Docks, Navigation, Construction and Repair, and Steam Engineering—that is, for tangible and perishable property. It has consisted and, so far as it now exists, yet consists of grounds, buildings, ships, guns, engines, boilers, docks, machinery, instruments, tools, etc. Some of it was obtained during the time of war, when prices were high. From 1812 to 1815, inclusive, the aggregate expenditures were about \$18,000,000 in excess of the average ordinary expenditures; and from 1861 to 1867, inclusive, this excess rose to about \$113,000,000. It would be impossible now to ascertain what proportion of these amounts is chargeable to the increase of prices occasioned by a state of war, but it is a reasonable estimate to assume that it was about an average of 50 per cent. This per cent deducted from the total excess of \$331,000,000, being \$165,500,000 leaves \$165,500,000 as a fair estimate of the value of the property rendered necessary by war as compared with the average prices prevailing in times of peace. And this would leave \$331,150,433.51 as also a fair estimate of the total value of the tangible and perishable property which has been purchased, during the period of eighty-two years, for the Navy Department, including large sums for necessary experiments, etc., which cannot be estimated.

Inventories of the present tangible property of the Navy, including grounds, buildings, ships, guns, engines, boilers, docks, machinery, instruments, tools, etc., have been taken under instructions from the department. The approximate total value is \$118,293,882.50, as shown by a table which accompanies this report. This deducted from the foregoing estimate of original cost, shows the decrease in value as compared with the total cost to be \$132,854,601. If this loss had been occasioned in the brief period of a year, or a few years, the amount would appear large. But it is to be remembered that it has been continuing through eighty-two years, and has been occasioned by use, decay, and other natural causes of deterioration, as well as, in a large degree, by the fact that when naval or any other public property has been sold at auction it has almost invariably produced less than the original cost. Including all these inevitable sources of diminution in value, however, the loss does not exceed a rate well accounted for by natural and other causes over which the department had no control.

Although, of course, in such large expenditures there must sometimes have been extravagance and waste, it may be confidently asserted that the general average of loss and deterioration is not greater than ordinarily occurs in the management of other kinds of tangible property, whether used by the public or by private citizens. Some percentage of loss beyond this may have occurred from the want of the necessary appropriations for preservation and repair, with which the department is not justly chargeable. Nor is it chargeable for deterioration in value from natural causes. Ships, houses, etc., built of timber are subject to decay, as are iron and all kinds of machinery to deterioration, under the influence of laws beyond human control. They may, however, be preserved somewhat beyond the natural period of this decay and deterioration by extreme care, which, in the case of public property, can only be provided when the necessary appropriations are made for the purpose.

In regard, therefore, to the naval property now on hand, the department can only respectfully suggest that it is not within its power to prevent its decay and deterioration, and that it cannot provide for its improvement and preservation without the necessary appropriations for that purpose. With the faithful disbursement of whatsoever is given to it with this view it is justly chargeable. Beyond this it is not, and ought not to be.

R. W. THOMPSON, Secretary of the Navy.

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U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1878.

Office, No. 245 Broadway, New York.

SUBSCRIPTION, SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

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THE TORPEDO VESSEL DESTROYER.

TWELVE years ago the London Mechanics' Magazine said "the undivided honors of having built the first practical screw steamer, the first screw war ship and the first cupola vessel belong to JOHN ERICSSON."

As if unwilling to leave any laurels for his rivals to gather in the field of naval warfare, Captain ERICSSON has determined to add the movable torpedo to his contributions to the progress of naval science during the forty years since he first brought the screw into practical use. That he has succeeded with his torpedo and torpedo vessel, it is premature to say; indeed, it will be difficult to pronounce final judgment on any form of torpedo construction until the only certain test, that of actual warfare, is applied. This much is clear, that for the price of one *Inflexible* we could build between sixty and seventy *Destroyers*, and, if we were called upon to defend our coasts, we should not be long in choosing between the one unwieldy iron clad and the three score and ten light heeled torpedo vessels, that would swarm around an enemy like bees from a hive, each one carrying its sting with it. What chance is there of hitting, under the ordinary conditions of an engagement, a vessel 12 feet beam, sitting so low in the water that at a little distance the sea seems to cover her deck? What chance is there of escaping some one of these little craft, with which our waters may be made to swarm, at such a trifling expense, each steaming at a rate somewhere between 15 and 20 miles, if not fully up to the maximum figure in capacity for speed?

We had the pleasure of a trip on the *Destroyer* a few days since, and certainly saw enough to give us the greatest confidence in Captain ERICSSON's full accomplishment of what he has undertaken. As to speed we do not consider the trip a fair test, as the foaming of the water in the boilers made it impossible to drive the engines at full speed. As it was, careful

timing with a stop watch showed that the distance from 59th street, North River, to 79th street North River, one mile, was run in 4 minutes, going with the tide, and in 4 minutes 11 1/4 seconds going against the tide, the mean being 4 minutes 5 3/4 seconds or 14 3/5 miles in an hour. This was with 103 revolutions of the screw, and, as will be seen by the letter from Captain ERICSSON, which follows, a better speed was obtained later on. It was surprising how little vibration the vessel showed under this speed. She rode her keel so evenly and steadily that a tumbler of water might have been carried on her decks without spilling its contents. A little more motion was shown when the vessel moved astern.

The steering apparatus is so perfect that a boy might handle the *Destroyer*. As to the ventilation, we confess to having had some skepticism concerning what was told us, but the report was not exaggerated. The little engine room, so crowded with machinery that scarcely ten feet of standing room was left between the engines and the boilers, was so cool that a winter overcoat was found to be a very comfortable addition to one's clothing, while standing within three feet of the open and glowing furnaces. A small gale of wind was blowing up the hatches, the air drawn down through the ventilator at the stern finding its exit there. From this it will be seen how perfect is the control over the combustion in the boiler furnaces.

The engines are as compact a mass of powerful machinery as we would wish to see, and the extent to which power has been combined with economy of space is really marvellous, the amount of space occupied by these powerful engines being less than 300 cubic feet. Capt. ERICSSON asserts that for the purpose for which the vessel is intended, that of national defence, these engines have already developed sufficient speed. A swarm of such hornets will certainly make our seas very uncomfortable for interlopers.

It should be remembered that this vessel is intended to suggest an idea which is capable of further development. The cork filling is not yet put in between decks, the buoyancy of the vessel is, however, such that tons of iron are carried in the hold as ballast, which might be distributed over the vessel as additional defensive armor. Captain ERICSSON's report of the trip is given in the following telegram which we are permitted to publish:

NEW YORK, December 2, 1878.

Commodore W. N. Jeffers, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

The new screw of the *Destroyer*, nine feet diameter, fourteen feet pitch, was tested last Saturday on the Hudson. Sixty-six pounds pressure of steam being admitted to the engine, developed one hundred and eleven turns, or seventeen two-thirds miles progressive speed of the propeller per hour; crank pins and journals perfectly free from heating. This result establishes the success of the vessel in point of speed, as the working pressure, easily maintained, exceeds one hundred pounds per square inch, with one hundred and twenty pounds in the boilers.

Full admission of steam during the trial having been prevented by violent "foaming," expedients are now being applied to check the same.

J. ERICSSON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 2, 1878.

Capt. J. Ericsson, New York.

Telegram received. Congratulate you on the success achieved. JEFFERS, Chief of Bureau.

There is reason to congratulate Captain ERICSSON on the excellent prospect that his *Destroyer* will complete the admonition conveyed by his *Monitor*, which, as he stated at the time in a letter to the Navy Department, was thus named, among other reasons, because "to the Lords of the Admiralty the new craft will be a monitor, suggesting doubts as to the propriety of completing these four steel ships at three and a half millions apiece."

Since writing the above we have received a report dated New York, Dec 5, in which Captain ERICSSON says: "The foaming of the boilers of the *Destroyer* has been completely checked. During a trial on the Hudson yesterday the propeller revolved at a rate of one hundred and twenty one turns per minute with a steam pressure of eighty seven pounds. The pitch being fourteen feet, this shows a progressive motion of nineteen and one quarter miles per hour. It will thus be seen that the power of the engine has not yet been fully utilized. I have accordingly ordered a new propeller which will be applied forthwith."

THE WAR OFFICE.

SECRETARY McCRARY's report may strike the Army reader, at first, like *Hamlet* with not only the Prince's part out, but the roles of the King and Queen very much abbreviated. The reorganization of the service and the controversy between the magnates of the Indian Office and the Army are the two leading topics of the hour, and Mr. McCrary nearly or quite ignores them both. Probably we should ascribe his silence on the former subject purely to respect for the Congressional Committee that has the matter in charge; but on the latter topic, if the Army view of Indian government and Indian campaigning cannot get countenance in the War Office, where should it look for support? Possibly Mr. McCrary's report was completed before the passage-at-words betwixt the Lieutenant General and Mr. Schurz broke out; but we think it best to bring bureau reports up to date. Or, again, Mr. McCrary may not think it courteous to interfere in a matter where a brother secretary is a leading disputant; but after all the War Office may as fitly espouse the cause of the Army, if it is in sympathy therewith, as the Interior Department can take up that of the Indian service—the Army is all there is of the former, and the Indian Office is but a minor and needless part of the latter. Finally, Mr. McCrary may regard the pending dispute as "none of his funeral;" but, as Gen. Sherman well says, the question is not one of personal antagonism to Messrs. Schurz and Hayt, of whom he speaks in high praise, but of an existing and unavoidable antagonism between the Army and the civilian system of Indian management.

We have thus cast about for probable causes of the Secretary's caution on these points, because the report as a whole we find to be terse, temperate, sensible, sound and, though chary of suggestions and even of endorsing suggestions, yet judicious in all that it endorses or offers. The Secretary makes the customary compilations of the various bureau reports; he justly draws the inference from the gratifying decline of desertions—1,678 for the past year against 2,516 the year before—that the rank and file of the Army is improving in tone and trustworthiness, through the extra care of the recruiting service. He believes with General Sherman that the Indians must, for the present, be kept in subjection by the near presence of a large military force. He credits the Mexican government with the avowal of a purpose to stop raids into Texas. He sensibly suggests that, in view of the great good effected by issuing to the public Army tents and medicines in the yellow fever exigency, though outside of the law, the President should be authorized by law to make such issues in like emergencies, in order that executive officers may not be under the necessity of acting outside the statutes. We doubt whether Congress will pass such a law, though the large delegation of members from the States ravaged by the fever may perhaps unite to carry it through, just as occasionally the delegations from border States ravaged by Indians occasionally combine, without distinction of party, to save the Army from being crippled. Experience in such cases is a good teacher.

Secretary McCrary suggests to Congress that the Quartermaster General's office is a very unsafe building, in which a fire would destroy many valuable papers and accounts. He recommends that the engineer battalion should be at once increased from 200 enlisted men, as at present, to not less than 520, adding that the new torpedo service alone requires the increase, and that works of public improvement can employ all the force thus added in time of peace. He commends the Wheeler Survey; he advises a liberal appropriation for post schools; he pays a tribute to Lieut. Benner, and asks a pension for his family; he calls attention to acquiring titles to the sites of sundry military posts in Texas; he gives the draft of a bill for appropriating money to the publication of the war records; he advises an increase of appropriations for both small arms and heavy ordnance; he recommends the printing of the Surgeon General's catalogue; he repeats his approval of the annuity scheme proposed by the Pay Department; he commends the signal service, and he finds the inspection of the Army to have been performed with ability and zeal.

The Military Academy Mr. McCrary justly eulogizes, and he endorses the recommendations of the visiting board, except their proposal for raising the

qualification for admission, to which he is opposed. He would rather drop out certain subjects in the course of instruction, in order to give greater opportunity for the rest—but he does not go into details upon this point. His argument for the repeal of the *posse comitatus* clause is strong and noteworthy, but we can only say that this is a matter for Congress to decide—if it does not wish the Army to exercise the functions now prohibited, certainly officers will not be anxious to resume them, having quite enough to do besides. He very strongly and justly urges the increase of the Indian scouts to 1,000, and that this force should be in addition to the authorized number of enlisted men. Taking the Army as a whole, he finds the year's inspections showing that the commissioned officers are temperate, zealous and attentive to their duties, and the rank and file as fine a body of men as ever was in the service.

NAVY UNIFORMS.

NAVAL officers have been much disturbed during the past week by the premature and unauthorized publication of the circular which follows:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Nov. 20, 1878.

Undress and Service Frock Coat—Hereafter the service frock coat will have but fourteen instead of eighteen buttons on the breast—seven in each row.

Vests—For all officers will be single breasted, no collar, with five small Navy buttons in front, and made of Navy blue cloth, fine blue flannel or of suitable white material.

Overcoats—To be of dark blue cloth or beaver cloth, double breasted, turned down collar, collar faced with same kind of cloth as the coat, two rows of large Navy buttons on the breast—seven in each row. Skirts to be full, commencing at the hip bone and descending thence six inches below the knee, with one button behind on each hip and one near the bottom of the pocket in each fold. The coat to fit loosely but sufficiently close to enable the sword to be worn over it. To have one outside breast pocket and two hip pockets cut obliquely. Cuffs to be closed and plain. On each end of the collar of the overcoat the same devices of rank and corps shall be worn respectively as authorized for sack coats.

Caps—To be of dark blue cloth; diameter of the top to be the same as the base; quarters not less than one inch and a quarter, nor more than one inch and three-quarters wide in front, sloping gradually, and to be not less than one-half nor more than one inch wide at the back of the cap. The seam around the tip to be without a welt and neatly stitched on each side. Band to be of mohair, $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, with a welt $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in diameter from the top, and a chin strap $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter one-quarter of an inch from the base of the cap. The cap in front to be not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inches nor more than $\frac{3}{4}$ in height, according to size, and to have chin strap $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch wide, of patent leather, secured by a small Navy button at each extremity of the vizor. All vizors to be peak vizors, sloping slightly downward, and lined on the underside with green leather, and to be not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inches nor more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide in front.

Admirals and commodores and staff officers of those grades to have the vizors embroidered all round in acorns and oak leaves in gold. Captains, commanders and staff officers of those grades to have the vizors embroidered on the front edge only, also of oak leaves and acorns, in gold. All other officers to have the vizor plain. Embroidered vizors to be of blue cloth, bound with patent leather. Vizors not embroidered to be of patent leather, with chin straps, as prescribed for the higher grades. The device in front of the cap for all officers shall consist of a gold laurel wreath $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in diameter, enclosing a silver eagle perched on the shank of a foul anchor embroidered in gold on a blue cloth, raised ground.

White linen covers may be worn in hot weather at the discretion of the senior officer present. During rainy weather only a black silk glazed cover may be worn on the cap. Cadet midshipmen and cadet engineers will continue to wear the uniform cap now in use.

Shoulder Straps—Shoulder straps for all officers of the Navy and the distinguishing colored cloth worn by staff officers are hereby abolished. Ensigns and midshipmen and staff officers of these grades will wear in full dress only the shoulder loops now prescribed.

Whoever is responsible for the publication of this circular, it is fortunate that it has made its appearance in advance of its official promulgation. The changes contemplated were supposed, at the Department, to be in accordance with the wishes of a large majority of those concerned, as indicated by the chiefs at Washington of the several Departments of the Navy. The manner in which the circular has been received must, however, have made it clear that the great body of the Navy is opposed to a change in uniform; at any rate to the change proposed; the principal feature of which is the abolition of the distinguishing colors on the sleeves of staff officers. Action has accordingly been suspended on the circular. Aside from other objections the change of uniform is protested against on the ground of the expense to which it will subject officers without good reason. The changes are trifling in themselves, and yet they are sufficient to put upon the officer the choice of either buying an entirely new garment or wearing a patched one. In some cases a new garment is practically inevitable. We trust that full attention will be paid to the protests already made and perhaps yet to be made on this question, and that the order will be so far modified as to obviate all objections founded on needless expense. As to the matter of decoration and insignia, the honest and manly way is to suffer them to show every officer to be what he is and not to present him either to the public or to the service as something different from what he is. Every grade of the United States Navy is honorable. Everybody may well be content with wearing such decorations as will show his position. It is entirely unjust to assume, as this order would seem to do, that there are any class of officers in our Navy who would wish to ignore those professional distinctions which are recognized in all military services, Army as well as Navy.

AESOP AT FORT SILL.

Wolf Schurz (*terribly*).—What do you mean by driving away my redskins to Wichita?

Lamb Sheridan (*tremblingly*).—I don't want them to go; it is your agents that are trying to drive them.

Wolf Schurz (*sternly*).—It amounts to the same thing—your Fort Sill water is so bad that they can't stay.

Lamb Sheridan (*submissively*).—It can't be bad, because my bluecoats thrive on it.

Wolf Schurz (*seriously*).—Your bluecoats make it so foul that my redskins can't drink it.

Lamb Sheridan (*feebly*).—That can't be, for your redskins stay higher up the stream, and the water runs down from them to my bluecoats.

Wolf Schurz (*indignantly*).—Be that as it will, you are supercilious, and used ill language against me some time ago, to your shepherd.

Lamb Sheridan (*innocently*).—How so, when I only spoke of rascally agents who plunder your own redskins, and not of your Wolfship.

Thereupon, in the ancient fable, the Wolf, finding it no purpose to argue, fell a snarling, and, drawing near to the Lamb, seized the poor, timid thing, tore it to pieces, and made a meal of it; only, it looks nowadys as if the Lamb would gobble up the Wolf, and the bluecoats capture the redskins.

Few words will be required for the story of the second week of the Anglo-Afghan Campaign. Our last summary left Gen. ROBERTS in Fort Mahomed-Azim, otherwise called the Koorum or Khurum Fort, which he had occupied without opposition on Wednesday of last week, capturing one dismantled gun. The garrison escaped to Peiwar Pass, at the northern end of the Koorum Valley; and a reconnaissance showed them to have got the guns of two field batteries on the summit of Peiwar, several thousand feet high. Gen. ROBERTS, leaving his sick in Khurum Fort, pushed forward on Friday, with six days' provisions, and next day felt the enemy with three regiments and a battery. These were repulsed by the accuracy of the Afghan fire, losing, however, it is said, only 18 killed and wounded. Thereupon Gen. Roberts quietly paused, awaiting reinforcement and supplies, with a view to dislodging the Afghans by a flank movement, a la Ali Musjid. On Sunday night, he made his flank march over Spengwai Pass, and at daybreak the 72d Highlanders and 5th Goorkhas drove the surprised Afghans from their outer positions. The Afghans, reinforced by four regiments only the night before, fought desperately, serving their artillery well; but before night Peiwar Khotal was carried, 18 guns and much ammunition being captured. The British loss was "moderate" says Gen. Roberts—80 killed and wounded says another account. A further advance was set down for Thursday.

In the Khyber Pass, it will be remembered, Gen. BROWNE had advanced as far as Dakka. Soon after, the roads in his rear were ravaged by several hundred men of a hostile hill tribe, near Ali Musjid, who cut off stragglers and fired on armed parties. Presently, like the "three black crows," this force had swelled to 4,000, had cut Gen. BROWNE's communications, and had closed the Pass between Jumrood and Ali Musjid, so that strongly escorted convoys could not get through. This made the situation look serious, especially when a mounted signal party under Major PEARSON lost several men in skirmishes. However, a couple of regiments, under Gen. APPLEYARD, were sent into the pass, and easily cleared it, dispersing the hostile tribe. In the upper part of the pass all has remained quiet, and Lord LYTTON reports that the Afghans have evacuated Jalalabad, which may therefore be occupied easily by Gen. BROWNE, unless it is preferred to winter at Dakka. A full division of reinforcements under Gen. MAUDIE has meanwhile reached Peshawur. MACPHERSON's brigade has pushed on to Boraval, beyond the Khurd-Khyber Pass, to forage and reconnoitre.

The Quetta column, under Gen. BRODULPH, has been quiet at Pisheen, in the Bolan Pass, and has suffered from sickness and loss of camels. Probably it will delay its advance to Candahar until spring.

It only remains to glance at the attitude of Russia. The Ameer is strongly fortifying in Cabul; but it is also palpable that if driven from there he must fall back westward towards the Persian frontier, making his last stand probably at Herat. Now it has been rumored that Russian troops, under LOMAKINE, are established only ten or twelve days distant from

Herat. It is also alleged that Gen. KAUFMANN has advised his government that, while England cannot fear a Russian advance on India through Afghanistan, where she is impregnable, the permanent occupation of the Khyber and Khoorum Passes by British troops will be a standing menace to Russian Turkestan. It is therefore possible that Russia will do two things: first, insist on England's refraining from so pushing her advances as to threaten Turkestan; secondly, insist on guarantees that the territory and autonomy of Afghanistan shall be left intact. But the bitter anti-English speech attributed to Gen. KAUFMANN, or presenting a sword to the Ameer's envoy at Tashkend, has been pronounced, by authority, a fabrication.

THE part which the Army and the Navy play in the administration of our Government is never seen more vividly than in reviewing the annual message which the President sends to Congress. Even in a time of peace, we find, invariably, a large part of such a message intimately connected with the year's work of the two services, and the debates in Congress during any session largely turn on the same topics. Thus, President Hayes's second message begins with a review of the yellow fever—a scourge whose chief martyr was an Army officer, and in which the military establishment rendered prompt aid by lending 1,800 tents, and rations to the value of about \$25,000. By this fever, according to the President, about 100,000 people were attacked, and 20,000 perished.

The next topic is the right of free suffrage at the South, and the duties of the executive under the enforcement act—a discussion in which the former duties imposed upon the Army at the South come to mind. Then follows a tribute to the Paris Exposition; and here, the aid which the Navy gave in transporting goods, and the marine corps in guarding them, are suggested. The review of our foreign relations—with Spain and Cuba, with China and Japan, with Samoa, with Mexico, and South America—bring the Army and Navy again into view, and special mention is made of Commander Selfridge's survey of the Amazon and Madeira, and of Commodore Shufeldt's approaching cruise on African coasts—both contributions of the Navy to national commerce. Indian affairs bring the Army once more to the front, and occupy a large share of the message. Finally, President Hayes recommends to the favorable consideration of Congress these seven recommendations of his War Secretary: A pension for Lieut. Benner; the annuity scheme for heirs of deceased officers, as suggested by the Paymaster-General; the publication of the war records; the repeal or amendment of the *pax comitatus* prohibition; the legalizing of the yellow fever issues of tents, rations and medicines; aid to post schools, and increased pay for soldier teachers; a fireproof building for the Quartermaster-General.

UPON the present Congress rests the duty of providing adequate armament for the protection of our sea-coast. If the real condition of our harbor defences was fully realized by the people, petitions would be sent by hundreds to members of Congress urging them to take decisive action upon the subject. Gen. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers, in his recent annual report, has strongly expressed himself upon the need of heavy guns, and Gen. Benét, Chief of Ordnance, in his excellent report just given to Congress, calls the attention of the country to the fact that there are but two establishments in this country that have the necessary plant for manufacturing heavy ordnance. It remains for Congress to decide, and upon them the responsibility must rest, whether or not the great cities shall be furnished not only with the best of torpedoes, but also with suitable arms for their defence, or whether they shall be allowed to remain subject to becoming the prey of any fleet provided with the superior ordnance of European nations. Upon Congress also rests the responsibility of saying whether the only two establishments in the country for making heavy ordnance are fostered by liberal Government patronage, or are allowed to die out for the want of such patronage, and the making of heavy guns become one of the lost arts in the United States.

WE are obliged this week to again enlarge the JOURNAL to twenty pages, and to use much small type in order to make any impression upon the mass of documents which crowd upon us for publication. Subscribers who object, as some do, to having articles set in small type, are reminded that as each column of the smallest type costs more than twice as much as the largest our own objections to the use of

small type are equally serious. We are often compelled to use small type for articles whose interest and importance require that they should be given a prominent position, because their length compels us to choose between using small type for them or not publishing them at all. Such are the annual reports of Army operations, and General Miles' very interesting report of a year's operations, which we sometime since published.

We expect to give the subscribers to the JOURNAL, in the cost of the paper, each year all that we receive from them, depending upon our advertising columns for our own return. Nothing would please us better than to give them twice as much, or what we do give for one half the money. This we could easily do if all who read the JOURNAL were subscribers to it. Even as it is, we hope during the coming year to be able to publish each week a paper the size of this number.

WE are indebted to the courtesy of Gen. Bradley T. Johnson, C. S. A., for a copy of his plan for reorganizing the militia, published in another column of this week's JOURNAL. We hold Gen. Johnson's opinions as to what the original design of the Constitution on this subject was, to be correct. Whether that design was wise is a wholly different matter. The Constitution has suffered many amendments at the hands of the people, some of them being of a fundamental character, as the result of a long experience. In reference to the militia, no amendment has been made, but the provision of the Constitution has hitherto been allowed to lapse into disuse. Gen. Johnson proposes a plan for a national militia, controllable by State authorities. His statement is clear and interesting; we supplement it with the views of Generals T. W. Sherman and Crittenden on other plans. The accounts which Gen. Johnson gives of his discussion with Gen. Upton on the subject of the militia will interest all officers.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that General Grant, accompanied by J. Russel Young of the N. Y. *Herald*, arrived at Gibraltar Nov. 12, and were domiciled at the residence of the U. S. Consul—Mr. H. J. Sprague. The Consul gave a brilliant reception on the evening of Nov. 14, on which occasion Lord Napier, the hero of Magdalla—now Governor at Gibraltar, was introduced to General Grant. Being both great soldiers, these two gentlemen have much in common. A fox hunt, in which General Grant participated, took place on the Neutral Ground, Nov. 15. Gen. Grant left Gibraltar on Nov. 16, for Malaga, in H. M. gunboat *Express*. General Grant's visit to the North Coast of Africa has been postponed, owing to the cholera. At Tangiers, opposite to Gibraltar, the number of deaths from the plague reached 100 per day during the time the General was at Gibraltar.

WE commend to the attention of our readers the interesting statement of the present condition of our Navy, contained in the report of Secretary Thompson. It shows a decided improvement for the year, and that the Secretary has done what he could with the means placed at his disposal. He determined at the outset to set the example of living within his means, and in his estimates for the coming year accepts the limit Congress has put upon the expenditures of his department, instead of following the usual custom of asking for more than is actually required, so as to allow the frugal Congressmen to make a display of economy without injury to the service.

CONGRESS has opened promisingly; for the House, without debate and immediately on their introduction, passed both the West Point and Fortification Appropriation bills just as reported, except that it added to the former \$40,000 for extending the Academy water works. The Senate has received both bills and sent them to the appropriate committee. What an improvement on the fruitless wrangle of last year over these routine bills!

THE Hon. R. W. Thompson had an attack of fainting while at the breakfast table, Dec. 2, caused it is supposed by indigestion, or oppression of the stomach, and was for a while unconscious. He however soon rallied and in an hour was feeling almost as well as ever. He intended going to the department the next day, but by the advice of his physician remained in doors.

THE New York Commandery of the Military Order had an unusually interesting meeting at Delmonico's, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 4, General Sheridan and Governor McClellan, of New Jersey being present. General Sharpe presided.

THE N. Y. *Tribune* of Nov. 31, says: "The Joint Commission on reorganizing the Army will be ready to report within a fortnight. The Commission is said to be practically unanimous on the question of reducing the staff of the Army. General Banning denies that it is the intention of the Commission to recommend anything which will cripple the Army proper."

LIEUT GEN. SHERIDAN has been in New York during the week, attending to his suit in the United States District Court. Benj. F. Butler is the attorney for the plaintiff, whose modest bill against Gen. Sheridan amounts to \$462,278.57. The principal answer of the defendant is that the State of Louisiana, by an act of Congress of March, 1867, was made subject to military authority; that he was an officer or agent of the United States—to wit, a Major-General in the Army of the United States—duly assigned by the President to the command of the Fifth District, and that it was part of his duty to protect the rights of persons and property; that it had been represented to him that certain lawless persons, without legal right, had wrested the possession and occupancy of the Kiloona plantation from the owner thereof, and which representation having been sustained by evidence he had issued an order securing the persons entitled to the possession of this plantation protection in their rights of person and property.

COMMODORE SHUFELDT made a personal inspection of the *Ticonderoga* on her arrival at Norfolk, and returned to Washington for a final conference with the Secretary of the Navy. He is in hopes to leave on his cruise the latter part of this week. The *Ticonderoga* is believed to have sustained no injury of consequence by her grounding in Gloucester Harbor. She subsequently rode out two or three heavy gales. She may go into dock, to make sure that her bottom is in perfect condition before her departure.

CHANGE OF NAVAL UNIFORM.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

FIR: Will you give me the space in the JOURNAL to say a few words on the subject of "Change of Uniform?"

Never a year passes without some project being brought up to effect a change in the naval uniform; and, heretofore, every such move has met with the most unmistakable opposition by a majority of the whole body of officers. A few individuals will ask that a new cap be given us; another coterie—usually about Washington—will propose an alteration in this or that article of dress; abolition of the shoulder-strap, or what not. Every part of the uniform, from the cap to stockings, these agitators have attempted to change in the last few years. One of the latest and greatest absurdities is, I understand, to give to staff officers silver instead of gold buttons and lace, and to decorate their caps with red, white or blue bands.

Almost every individual officer in the service has his own ideas as to what change he would like, but I have never heard, in many discussions of the subject, any two officers agree exactly on all points. Now, I am fully justified in saying, that our uniform is, in general, satisfactory; there are very few who do not think, upon the whole, it is neat, pretty and comfortable. Any change will displease a greater number than it will gratify, and will, besides, involve great and unnecessary expense. It is to be regretted that we are continually harassed in this manner by any handful of officers who choose to agitate the subject, and my object in this communication is to suggest to the officers of the Navy:

1st. That we express, by a combined and respectful representation to the Honorable Secretary of the Navy, our desire to have no change in the uniform.

2d. That we respectfully petition Congress to establish our uniform as it is, and, by giving it the force of law, place it beyond the reach of those who delight in exercising upon it their inventive genius.

UNIFORM.

(Correspondence of the Army and Navy Journal.)

INDIAN MANAGEMENT.

WE cannot but believe that the outbreak of the Cheyennes was the means of our escaping from a more serious trouble with the Sioux of the Spotted Tail and Red Cloud Agencies, for Red Cloud had taken a firm stand in the matter of the site of his new reservation or of the agency for his band. He is a bold and enterprising savage, and he felt that both of the bands of Sioux who were forced to go over to the Missouri River last year were badly treated, and he knew perfectly well that they were forced to go over there for the reason that in the interest of certain contractors the supplies had been dumped on the river bank, instead of being delivered to them at Camp Robinson and Camp Sheridan. Now these bands had been promised that they should return to their old agencies this year, but they knew that every effort would be made to keep them on the Missouri. After much delay, however, they were permitted to return to a point near to the old grounds, but astride the State of Nebraska, where they were to select the ground for themselves. Red Cloud selected a point on

Big White Clay Creek, about equi-distant from the Union Pacific Railroad and the Missouri River, while Spotted Tail selected a point on Pass Creek, some fifty miles farther to the north and east. Red Cloud drove a large stake into the ground at White Clay, and he said that he chose that spot for the reason that while it suited his people there was nothing to choose as to distances. Their supplies were to be hauled, and he hoped that he would have no more trouble about the delivery of the supplies.

Then the trouble commenced. A Mr. O'Beirne is a reporter for the New York *Herald*, and he is also in the employ of the Indian Bureau, and he was designated as the one to locate the ground. Now Mr. O'Beirne may or may not have been in the interests of the party who were anxious to get the agencies as near the Missouri as possible. At any rate he insisted on making the location considerably near to the eastward, on Wounded Knee Creek. But Red Cloud said: "Here have I put my stake, and here my people wish to come, and to no other place will we go peaceably. If you attempt to force us I will not be responsible for the consequences."

Just then the Cheyenne trouble came, and Mr. O'Beirne received orders to yield the point, which would otherwise have been insisted upon; for the river is all powerful when headed by a United States Senator.

Apropos to this matter of locating again the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail bands, it may be interesting to note the business affairs connected with the management of those Sioux. The two agencies of Camp Robinson and Camp Sheridan, the former the Red Cloud Agency and the latter the Spotted Tail Agency, were commenced late in 1874. In 1875 and 1876 something like \$175,000 had been expended on the buildings, and just as they were beginning to be comfortable, it was discovered that the Indians must go over to the Missouri River to get their supplies. Here new buildings were put up for agencies, notwithstanding the promises made to the Indians that they should return to their old agencies. Now that the bands have returned to the vicinity of their old quarters they are to have another set of agency buildings, and all the money expended heretofore for quarters or other buildings may be considered as thrown away. Verily the contractors for building out there have their lines cast in pleasant places. The business management of the Indian Department ought not to be considered the best in the world, in fact the Rothschilds would become bankrupt in six weeks could their affairs be conducted by the Indian Bureau.

EXHIBIT.

(From the News-Letter, San Francisco, Oct. 5.)

THE WAR ON THE ARMY.

EVERY graduate of the public schools in the United States knows, like Ulysses, "innumerable things," because he has been and seen them with his mind's eye; and one of the things he knows best is how to get along without a regular army. An army is aristocratic, and therefore dangerous to the liberties of the people; it is fit for nothing but fighting; it is not even fit for fighting; it is a snug retreat for idle men who have been educated at the expense of the nation to think themselves better than other men; it is unnecessary and useless, because we have no enemies, and never shall have; it is a ready instrument for the Caesar who is on the way; it costs a great deal of money. These, and utterances like these, we hear periodically from every corner of the land, wherever a sprouting politician exists; and where is he not?

The first requisite for having an opinion on a subject being a total ignorance of what it means, the country is, of course, amply provided with opinions on the Army, monotonously to the same effect. The Army itself, for the most part, makes no sign; and wisely, for how shall a man talk reason to a people of howling dervishes?

There is, to be sure, something genuine in the instinctive dislike of the American to the Regular Army, quite apart from the sense, real and affected, of the dangers to be apprehended from a military force. The Army is a standing contradiction to our divine theory and practice of rotation in office. Officers are not chosen and set aside by the popular vote; and your good American must hate, with a perfect hatred, men who hold their positions in defiance of the health-giving breeze,

Which comes now from this side and now from that,

And changes name because it changes quarter.

For the newspaper opposition to the Army it is easy enough to account; but it gives one pause to find an Army officer, a soldier of high reputation, uttering sentiments even partially in accord with the clamor of the multitude. General Joe Johnston is said to have proposed a plan for doing away with the Regular Army; retaining only the officers, and providing a "generous volunteer system," whatever that may mean. This plan, he declares, would give us a much more efficient Army, and would, at the same time, save ten millions a year to the people. The latter consideration decides the question of the adoption of this reform. If it ever is proposed to Congress, it will be voted by acclamation. We all like economy, because there is so much more to steal from in a saving household. General Johnston is said to have enforced his theory of reform by quoting the experience of the Civil War, in which the fighting was done by the volunteers, and not by the Regular Army.

No doubt; and for a good reason. The Regular Army was too small to do any fighting. If we meant to fight, we had to take hold of each other; and since we were nearly all volunteers, we had to fight volunteers—Northern volunteers against Southern volunteers; that was the situation in the early part of the war; and no one knows better than General Johnston that both sides paid dearly for their inexperience, and that the fighting became significant only as the armies

laid aside their volunteer character and became, in the roughest of schools, regular soldiers.

No competent soldier can doubt that an army of a hundred thousand regulars, on either side, at the outbreak of the war, would have given to that side an instant and probably a crushing superiority. It is not necessary to have read much military history to understand that skilled soldiers must do their work better than unskilled, whether the soldiers are European or American. No doubt the practice of our American life is contrary to the practice of older nations. By a certain secret virtue, derived from our geographical position as the Eastern West and Western East, we have been set free from the laws which obtain in other organized societies. In America the man who knows least about the matter is the fittest man for the place. The best Regent of the University or Superintendent of Schools is one who does not know how to spell. The men who are to remodel the State Constitution are selected from those who have given their whole minds to the carrying of hods and the mixing of drinks. Our architects are generally persuaded that the five Orders have some connection with the Roman Catholic Church; and if one were to call on a lawyer for information about the Twelve Tables, he would most likely be referred to the Pentateuch. We never ask whether experience and study have prepared a man for his duties, but only, with Dogberry, "Whom think you the most senseless and fit man to be Constable?" In the immense majority of instances, where volunteers have fought against regular soldiers, they have been utterly overthrown, and General Johnston knows this quite as well as Von Moltke himself. It seems a hard thing to say of one respected as a high-minded soldier, but it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that a desire for political success has led him to say what his sober judgment condemns as sophistical and radically unsound.

It is not in this way that an American can serve his country. We cannot spare one man, who has conviction and sound knowledge; and what the country cries out for is honest and fearless re-assertion of established truth, in the face of ignorant clamor and pretentious claptrap.

COMMODORE SPICER.

The Navy will hear with deep sorrow the tidings that Commodore Spicer, commandant of the Boston Navy-yard since May 31st, died at 5 o'clock on Friday morning, Nov. 29th, at the age of 58 years, at his official residence in the yard. But the suffering that he had for many months experienced from the disease, (a tumor in his chest), which at last proved fatal, must check the wish that the genial and widely-esteemed sailor could be recalled to life.

Commodore Spicer was a native of New York, from which State he entered the Navy as midshipman, June 21, 1839, and had thus finished nearly 39½ years of duty, of which his sea service was upwards of twenty years. His career was honorable and useful, but less eventful than that of some of his brother officers. His sea service was successively on the Dolphin, the North Carolina, the Cyane, the Nautilus, the Saranac, the Vixen, the Cumberland, the Michigan, the Levant, the Constellation, the Niagara, the Cambridge, the Quaker City, the Dacotah, and the monitors Terror and Dictator. He cruised on the African Coast, with the North and South-Pacific squadrons, the Gulf and North Atlantic squadrons, in the China and Japan seas, in the Mediterranean, and was engaged in the coast survey duty. His war service was in the North Atlantic blockading squadron; and he took part in the bombardment of Fort Fisher. His last cruise ended Feb. 1875, and on April 25, 1877, he received his commission as commodore.

It is said that the dropsical tumor from which Commodore Spicer died, was the result of catching cold while on the ironclads. He had command of the Terror in 1873, and when the Virginia affair broke out, he was put in command of the important ironclad Dictator. He took charge of the Boston yard, June 25th, last, and a few days later, Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, and Medical Inspector Hord, of the yard, drew about three pints of water from his chest, which relieved him. About a week before his death a second operation was tried, but with little success, and soon the tumor pressed upon his internal organs, so that he died in great distress, being slowly strangled to death. Official honors were promptly paid to his memory.

Commodore Spicer was not only skilled in his profession, but a very companionable gentleman, with much aptitude as a poet and musician. His private house was at Winchester, near Boston. He leaves a wife and a large family, the eldest son being Lieutenant Spicer of the Marine Corps. Amongst his ballads, well-known to the service, are, "Absent Friends and You, Mary," "The Gale," "Manhattan's Dear Isles," "Ah! Who Can Tell?" "The Commodore's Return," "Death at Sea," "Coming Home," "All Up Anchor," "Old Relief," "In the Offing," "Gone Aloft," "Off Scilly's Isles," "Adaline," "Moonrise," "Norfolk Girls" and "The Date of '39." One of these is before us as we write, and seems to bear a double significance now in its title—"Gone Aloft."

A DISPATCH dated St. Louis, Nov. 30, says: "The United States District Court has rendered judgment for the Government against George Atcheson, for failing to account for between \$14,000 and \$15,000 placed in his hands as an Army officer, for distribution among the Indians in Minnesota in September, 1870. Frequent demands were made upon Atcheson to refund or account for the amount, but no attention being paid to them suit was entered and, the defendant failing to appear, judgment entered for the Government." Atcheson was 1st lieutenant of the 7th Infantry and Indian agent at Chippewa, Minn. He resigned from the Army March 1, 1872.

TRIAL TRIP OF THE TRENTON.—On the 15th of October the full speed trial trip of the flagship *Trenton* was made between Gibraltar and Villefranche, by the order of the Admiral commanding the European station. The conditions of the trial were not the most favorable, the vessel having been nearly two years in commission, and in active service during all of that time. The bottom was somewhat foul. The results of the trial, however, were very satisfactory; the conditions of which were as follows:

Date of the trial.....	Oct. 15th, 1878
Number of hours.....	6
Speed in knots per hour. { Maximum for 1 hour.....	14
{ Mean for 6 hrs., per log.....	12.63
Boiler pressure in lbs. above the atmosphere.....	70.
Receiver pressure in lbs. above zero.....	21.845
Revolutions of the engine per min. { Mean for 1 hour.....	61.
{ Mean for 6 hrs.....	54.46
Vacuum, in inches of mercury.....	20.17
Throttle valve opened fall.	
Fraction of the stroke of the piston { H. P.	22.7
{ L. P.	30.0
Injection water.....	74.0
Discharge water.....	119.3
Feed water.....	137.0
External atmosphere.....	74.0
Engine room.....	96.0
Draught of water in feet and inches. { Forward.....	18-5
{ Aft.....	20-8
Number of pounds of coal per hour.....	MT44.37
Aggregate indicated horse-power { Maximum.....	3100.00
{ developed by the engine	Mean for six hours. 2913.11
Pounds of coal per horse-power per hour.....	2.043

During the trial the vessel's draught increased forward, or in other words, she buried at the head. The engineers say that coal could not be brought from the bunkers fast enough to supply the demand, as the contracted form of the bunkers prevented more than two men from filling the buckets. It will be remembered there is no forward bunker in this vessel, all the coal being carried in bunkers behind and above the boilers, with but one door—on each side—opening into the fire room.

SECRETARY THOMPSON'S REPORT.—The New York *Herald* compares Secretary Thompson to "one of those extremely capable housewives who, when a reverse overtakes her husband, has the tact, skill and good nature to accommodate herself cheerfully to a small income, and to make her home nearly as pleasant as in a period of affluence. It is a solid and sterling merit in a public officer to be able to practice an uncomplaining economy, and to make a respectable show with stinted means. Secretary Thompson possesses this merit in a higher degree than any recent head of the Navy Department, or of any other department which handles large sums of the public money."

The Boston *Herald* says that apropos of the Secretary's remarks on the condition of our commerce: "The array of figures given to support the assertion that our shipping interests are in a terribly depressed condition are instructive and, beyond question, reliable; but the conclusions deduced from them are, we will not say, ridiculous, but certainly wholly imaginary. Mr. Thompson, unfortunately for his maritime knowledge, comes from the West, and hence, when he attempts to argue on admitted facts bearing on this subject, he shows not only his want of experience, but an incapacity to comprehend and grasp the true meaning and relationship of the data at his command. This is much to be regretted, as the Secretary is evidently a man of strong convictions, and one who, if once on the right road, would spare no effort to accomplish the worthy purpose he has in view."

FIRST LIEUTENANT W. S. MUSE.—U. S. M. C., of the Artillery School, Fort Monroe, Va., was in Washington this week on his bridal tour.

SECRETARY THOMPSON has removed from Lafayette Square to the old family residence of the late Commodore Aulick, at the corner of 18th and I streets. This gives him a few more squares to walk to and from his office, which he seems to enjoy, as it is seldom he ventures into a carriage.

The Secretary of the Navy has reviewed the proceedings of the Board, appointed to examine into the management and discipline of the U. S. S. *Passaic*, commanded by Commander J. D. Graham, and unto certain complaints made by one or two of the crew of that vessel; and has officially informed Comdr. Graham, that from the facts elicited by the examination, there appears to have been no just ground for the complaints in question. On the contrary the testimony shows that the crew have been kindly treated and have received all the indulgences consistent with the good of the service, and that they are well satisfied with his course toward them; also that he has conducted his command with good judgment and discretion, and that the discipline of the vessel is in every respect creditable to him as a commanding officer.

The wreck of the steamer *John Bramall*, just as she had started with her cargo of Turkish arms and ammunition to the Providence Tool Company renewed activity. The contract for the 600,000 Martini rifles, entered upon in 1872, was within 30,000 of completion, and a small but regular reduction of force each pay-day was being made. But, suggestive of the old adage, "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good," this disaster provides further employment for possibly 600 to 800 men. The two weeks' salt-water soaking that this cargo received necessitates making over 25,000 new rifles and repairing 7,000, also making 36,000 new sabres, and refitting about 6,000. The history of these rifles is substantially, first as a Bostonian's invention, then with an English improvement, adoption by the Queen's service, introduction into and approval by Turkey, and successful Yankee competition for their manufacture on three contracts of respectively two, three and one hundred thousand. The rifle seems to have proved an efficient arm in the late war with Russia; and where brigades were provided with it, quite able to cover their front at a range of 1,500 to 2,000 yards.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

A NATIONAL MILITIA.

We published last week a brief report of the meeting held at Richmond, Va., November 12, by a number of gentlemen interested in the movement, looking to the more perfect establishment of the military force of the State of Virginia, etc. At that meeting a report signed by Gen. Dabney H. Maury, chairman of a committee appointed at a previous meeting to present a memorial and plan, was read and adopted. A memorial to Congress and the State Legislature accompanied the report, setting forth the present condition of the militia in the State, the present extent and cost of the Army of the United States, asking the reduction of the Army, that the money thus saved be applied to the arming and equipping and improving the militia of Virginia and the other States, that the cadets appointed to West Point from Virginia be selected from the graduates of the Virginia Military Institute alone, and that the standard of education at West Point shall be elevated in accordance with the demands of the age.

The memorial having been read, a portion of it which seemed to reflect upon the Regular Army of the United States was stricken out.

REORGANIZATION OF THE MILITIA.

Gen. Bradley T. Johnson then gave at length his views in regard to the reorganization of the military system of the country. He said: The theory of the Government is that the people themselves shall have the right to bear arms, and it is their duty to defend their liberties, institutions, and social order. Therefore the 8th section of the 1st article of the Constitution provides that the Congress shall have the power "to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively the appointment of the officers and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;" and the Congress shall also "provide for calling them forth to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions." It is no part of the theory of the Constitution that the Army shall be authorized or allowed to serve as *posse comitatus* to execute the laws or suppress insurrections. That is the function of the militia—citizen soldiers—prepared for their duty by proper training, taken from the body of the citizenship to enforce laws or preserve order, and returning again to their avocations as soon as this duty is performed.

The Congress of 1792—during Washington's first term—passed an act for organizing and enrolling the militia, and that is the basis of all legislation since. No other attempt has been made to enroll and discipline the militia in time of peace. Experience has proved that the system thereby prescribed is utterly inefficient. Congress in 1808 appropriated \$200,000 per annum for the purpose of purchasing arms for the militia, and that appropriation divided among the States in proportion to their Representatives and Senators is the only expenditure made by the Government in execution of the constitutional grant of power "to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia." It is self-evident that the police power of the States to preserve order must be maintained. It must be maintained by the States. I have it on good authority that ten cities in the Union expend two millions of dollars per annum in supporting their police force; and still in exigencies, when extra effort of police is required, it has always proved necessary to call upon the armed force—the reserve police—for assistance. Owing to the inefficiency of the militia, caused by the neglect of Congress to provide properly "for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia," the armed reserve police power has been found to exist only in the Regular Army of the United States in most States of the Union. The consequence has been that the Army is constantly employed on police duty in the States, in direct conflict with the Constitution and open violation of the objects for which it is raised and maintained, and the people are being gradually educated to look to the Army as the conservator of order instead of relying on themselves and their own patriotism to protect them from social disturbance and domestic turmoil.

Hence we saw last year Governors of great States frantically telegraphing the President of the United States for a corporal and a file of men, or a captain and a battery, to repress the mob in cities numbering tens or hundreds of thousands of able bodied citizens capable of bearing arms.

When the people themselves rely on Regular troops to protect their homes and their families instead of trusting to their own arms and hearts, then society has progressed very far from our original institutions of self-governing citizenship. The lessons of the last few years must have impressed the public mind so that it will be ready to examine and discuss the question of the reorganization of the militia. I prefer leaving the whole matter of Army reorganization to the congressional commission to which it is committed, and not at present bring it into the forum of popular discussion. The Army ought to be maintained in its highest efficiency, and kept strictly within the limits of its constitutional duty. The Constitution gives no warrant or excuse for the employment of armed force by the President of the United States unless upon demand of the State authorities. The State militia, under the orders of the State herself, were intended to be, and ought to be, ample to maintain order in the State. When she calls for Federal assistance, and not before, can the Federal authorities interfere.

These being the constitutional relations of the Army and of the militia to the people and the States, and it being evident that an armed reserve police force is necessary to reinforce the ordinary police power upon extraordinary occasions, I propose a thorough organization, arming, and disciplining of the militia of the United States according to the Constitution. The Army ought to be the *cadre* of military organization—the skeleton upon which, in time of war, the military power of the Union could be speedily, economically, and efficiently organized.

Its staff ought to be maintained in the highest efficiency—small, compact, and perfectly instructed. Its commissioned officers should be educated to the highest degree in all the advances made in the art of war, and by inspections and reports kept thoroughly informed of all the improvements made in military organization by the nations of Western Europe.

But the armed power of the country ought to be among her citizens—trained in Tactics, inured to arms, and accustomed to operate in bodies and act under orders.

GENERAL JOHNSON'S PLAN.

For the attainment of this object I propose the enrolment of a body of volunteers for a term of five years, renewing one-fifth every year, to be divided among the States in proportion to their congressional representation—say 1,000

for each congressional district—the enrolment to be entirely voluntary, and under the direction of the Governors of the States; the officers to be appointed by the State; arms, accoutrements, and armories to be furnished by the Federal Government; these volunteers to be subject at all times to the inspection of the Federal staff, etc. Congress should make an appropriation for subsistence and transportation of these volunteers equal to \$33 per annum per man, the appropriation to be paid to the State upon the certificate of the Federal inspectors that the troops were in a proper condition of efficiency to warrant the payment.

This would give about three hundred thousand volunteers in the States and Territories. The law would require that they should be assembled in camps of instruction yearly, where they would be subsisted and paid, as troops in the Regular service, say for a period not exceeding thirty days in one year.

This militia would constitute a State police to preserve order in the State when ordinary means failed, and do away with every excuse for the unconstitutional interjection of the Regular Army into the affairs of a State. It would be under the control of the State, as required by the Constitution, but would be armed, organized, and disciplined by the United States under the supervision of its own inspectors and staff officers. It would be efficient, for no appropriation would be paid for its maintenance unless it was efficient, and it would be the sure protection and bulwark of the rights of the people at all times against every attack. The whole body, consisting of 300,000 men, and one-fifth going out every year, their places would be filled by new men, who would rapidly acquire their business from the trained men in the ranks. Thus, 60,000 men each year would be turned into the body of citizens fairly instructed in the duties and exercises of the soldier, and ready and able at all times to render efficient service in defence of their country. At the end of five years we should have 300,000 men in the ranks, and 300,000 who had served their time, which in five years more would be increased by 300,000 more, thus providing in ten years nearly 1,000,000 of men as the reserve force of the country—educated and intelligent soldiers, to be relied on to defend their liberties and their country. Some such provision as this by Congress is imperatively needed. It is necessary for the purpose of separating the Regular Army absolutely and entirely from the unconstitutional and dangerous functions which have been so constantly imposed on it in late years, and which are as distasteful to the officers and men as they are to the citizens over whom they are placed as police. It is necessary to eradicate the growing idea that it is the duty of the Federal Government to supervise the citizens of the States and to require them to behave themselves; to act as *posse comitatus*, or preservers of order; and it is still more necessary to impress upon the people their duty, through their State governments, to see that their laws are obeyed, that the rights of all citizens are equally protected, and that social order is preserved. Impose upon the people the responsibility of preserving order and protecting their rights, and they will do it; but accustom them to look to the Federal authority as the sole source of protection, and they will rapidly learn to believe that it is their master and not their servant, and to forget that a people to remain free must guard their control over their own Government and the agents they have selected to administer it, for their benefit, according to their will.

This militia would be the safeguard of the States in time of peace, and the bulwark of the Union in war. It could be made a part of the Army organization, and a place provided for it in the Army when called into the service of the United States.

It will be necessary in the reorganization of the Army to form it on a system which may be expanded as necessity requires. Some such military organization as this is necessary.

I have discussed Gen. Upton's plan with him tolerably fully. He is writing a history of the military organization of the United States, from 1775 down, which will be invaluable to the military student as well as to the philosophical observer of the working of Democratic institutions. He will show the wasteful, extravagant, lavish expenditure in calling out the militia in 1812 in the Mexican war and in the late war, and will prove that the thousands of millions of dollars thrown away and the hundreds of thousands of lives lost have been largely due to lack of preparation, training, or knowledge of the rudiments of the military art.

But Gen. Upton and myself are utterly at variance as to the principles of military reorganization. He is a centralist; I am a local self-government man. He believes that the Government should govern the people; I believe that the people should control the Government. His plan looks to a military establishment, of which the President shall be Commander-in-Chief, and all power concentrated in him. I propose a plan in which the Governors of States shall command their own militia, and where the President shall not interfere, except in actual invasion or war, or at the request of the State authorities. His system would enormously centralize the Government; mine would decentralize it. The difference is as old as the Constitution, and I suppose the struggle between the two theories is necessary to keep either from running into extremes. It would be wise and beneficial if the cadets to West Point should be appointed from the graduates of the military schools established and controlled by the various States. But in the absence of information as to the number and efficiency of State military schools, and with the knowledge that the State school of Virginia is in the highest degree of efficiency, it will be best now to ask for such amendment of the law regulating the appointment of cadets to West Point as will require that all cadets to the United States Military Academy be appointed from those of the graduating class of the Virginia Military Institute.

In this connection it is interesting to refer to the opinions, as to the organization of a National Militia, received by Gen. Wingate, Secretary of the Committee, in response to the circular sent out in behalf of the meeting called to consider this subject.

Major-Gen. T. W. Sherman, U. S. Army, discusses the double purpose the framers of our Government intended the militia should serve in its relations first to the State and then to the General Government, and shows that to be efficient for this double service it must be ready at all times to serve under the command of the Governor or that of the President. "The only sound condition," he says, "for any immediate and efficient service for the national force is that of entire uniformity in organization, instruction, discipline, and even in armament—to be produced and controlled by one sovereign law." For answer to the question whether Congress has power to produce this uniformity he refers to the section of the Constitution defining its powers over the militia. He says: "Probably there are no powers given to Congress that have been neglected so much as some of these—whether from delicacy on the part of the General Government in urging them, or jealousy of State rights on the part of Congress in acting upon them, it is useless here to consider. But I am convinced and assert that a reasonable construction of these powers give Congress all authority over the militia of the States—equal to what it claims over the Regular Army—excepting only the appointment of the officers and the governing of it when not in the service of

the United States, which are left with the Governors on condition of their governing it according to the discipline prescribed by Congress."

Brevet Brig.-Gen. T. L. Crittenden, U. S. Army, colonel 17th Infantry, expresses his approval of the plan in a letter, in course of which he says: "A thoroughly organized militia, besides enabling each state to maintain tranquillity within its borders, would also furnish the National Government with a powerful force of instructed, disciplined soldiers and a large body of accomplished officers. It also seems to me that no fundamental law is requisite to put your plan in operation. But the question of national and State authority remains exactly as it now stands."

Governor M. Brayman, of Idaho Territory, expresses his approval of the plan, and promises to co-operate in every way, though he thinks the "memorandum of legislation required" may need modification in some features if intended to take in the remote and sparsely settled Territories. He says, "Idaho though organized in 1863 has no militia law—each legislature refusing to enact. In my first message, 1876-7, I urged it and prepared a bill, which was quickly indefinitely postponed. The Nez Perce war of last year, and the Bannock war of this, found me without any authority of territorial law. I was simply, by courtesy of Congress, Commander-in-Chief of the militia without a recognized militia—a general without an army. The emergency, however, forbade an action, and acting upon the one man power, I organized some twenty-six companies, and distributed some 1,700 arms and 60,000 cartridges. In my message now preparing I will renew the effort, and endeavor to secure a mild, easy working militia law. Amidst the difficulties of the situation I have devised a system in advance of yours—a more radical remedy for the laxity and diversity of the independent State and territorial organizations; that is to say, a National Militia Law of Congress requiring uniform organization under national authority, so that the reserved military strength of the nation may be a national, not State or territorial, militia. A militia raised and controlled by States is but a relic of the policy which under the old confederation left them to raise revenue and contribute to the necessities of the General Government. Confessing that herein I touch dangerously upon the doctrine of State Rights, I do desire congressional legislation when Territories refuse action on the subject. I think, upon fair presentation, our General Assembly will in joint resolution recommend in general terms your plan."

Col. H. M. Boise, 13th regiment, Pennsylvania, thinks that a larger appropriation than \$1,000,000 would be needed, though it may not be wise to attempt to get too much at first. "A million" he says, "in a short time would appear as small as the present \$200,000, and it is possible that it might run as long as the old one unchanged."

Brig.-Gen. Frederick Townsend, 9th New York Brigade, makes the same suggestion regarding the appropriation, which he thinks should be one million and a half dollars. He would establish at Washington, under the Secretary of War, a department of the militia, with an Inspector-General of Militia with rank of Major-General U. S.; he should be a graduate of the Military Academy, and to be appointed from the Army by the President. He should also act as Q. M. General and General of Ordnance of Militia. Under him Gen. Townsend proposed to have for each State, and under the orders of the Governor, two Inspector-Generals of Militia ranking as colonels in the Army and one ranking as lieutenant-colonel, and these to be graduates of the Military Academy all to receive the pay, etc., of their ranks.

FORTY-SEVENTH, NEW YORK (BROOKLYN).—The first battalion drill of the season of 1878-9 was held in this command on Friday evening, Nov. 29, at its armory, Colonel Wm. H. Brownell in command. Co. A, Capt. Guthrie, executed the ceremony of guard mounting, every little detail of which being carefully attended to. Hardly had the drums ceased from adjutant's call, when the details, 12 full files, were brought on the line and ranks opened. Verification by the S. Major was rapid, officers and N. C. officers assigned to their positions and the guard inspected. The pass in review was commendable, and Captain Guthrie and his men well deserved the praise of the officers of the regiment. After the passage the guard was marched to the small drill room which was used as a guard house, and sentries were promptly posted. At 8.20 the regimental line, eight companies, twelve files, the size of the room preventing a larger front, was formed for drill, and handsomely turned over by the acting adjutant, Lieut. Eddy. The formation was rapid and clean, and prompt in every particular. A few movements of the manual of arms commenced the drill, slightly ragged at first, but steadily improving. The men were attentive and readily fell into the correct cadence, the closing motions of the manual being excellent. A march in column of fours opened the battalion movements, the step being slightly hasty and ranks not well closed. These errors, however, were quickly covered, and all worked smooth. From column of fours, to the right close column of divisions, reform column of fours, and on right into line by wings, were cleanly executed, not a single hitch occurring. The first errors were observed in the wheels into column by company and back into line, yet even these were momentary and quickly closed. A march in column, company and division front was well, step distances and alignments excellent. The neatest movement of the drill was one in which the majority of commands come to grief, from carelessness of officers or inattention of men—right of companies rear into column—yet, as executed on this occasion, it could hardly have been improved upon. The several companies moved to the rear in unison, were wheeled at the same moment, and to all appearances dressed at once. The execution was loudly applauded by those present who understood the movement. As a total and for a first drill the command exhibited a proficiency which would be well merited by a full season's practice. At half-past nine o'clock the guard, Co. A, was called in; Captain Doughty's Co. B was ordered to the front and centre, their place being taken by Co. A. A rest was ordered, and two members of the non-com. staff brought from the board of officers' room a table covered with flags. The command being at rest, considerable amusement was created by the remarks on what thin stretcher contained. Attention being given, Captain Doughty was presented by Col. Brownell, on behalf of the field officers, with an elegant service of silver for recruiting the greatest number of men, during the season of 1877-8 inspection to inspection. The colonel next presented Co. B with a certificate for a considerable sum of money contributed by the council of officers. In both speeches Colonel Brownell was particularly happy. Honors were still further piled on Co. B, when Corporal Samond was called to the front, and Chaplain Maynard presented him with the "Dakin medal," won during the past season at Creedmoor. In his remarks the chaplain paid a warm tribute to the deceased general. The command was then dismissed.

TWENTY-THIRD NEW YORK (BROOKLYN).—This regiment is directed to assemble at the armory, in full dress uniform, on Tuesday evening, December 10, at 8 o'clock, for review by Brig.-Gen. Stephen R. Smith, commanding 1st Brigade, C. N. G., and

viewing officer. Salutes of officers fair, alignments ragged, men well mounted and fairly sitting their horses, but not in regulation uniform.

Following the Huzzars came the Keystone Battery, 8 officers and 57 men, with two ten pound Parrott and two Gatling guns, with sabers. The battery was well mounted but the largest horses were hitched to the smallest guns. The battery passing in platoons made a fair display; pieces well aligned, and on part of the men, excellent steadiness, looking serviceable; salutes on part of two colors very good; on part of third there was an entire omission. The uniforms are beginning to look the worse of wear, and should be changed for the regulation style.

The 1st regiment followed, holding the right of the infantry, Col. Wiedersheim commanding, with staff of 6; salutes on part of all excellent. The regiment passed with ten companies equalized 16 front, presenting a very creditable appearance. The marching was solid and uniform, but step slow in cadence, and entirely too short. The best marching as regards step, length and cadence was made by the regiment on its return to the armory after line was broken. Distances were fairly maintained with few exceptions, alignments only fair, ranks well closed except in color company; men showing only fair steadiness. Salutes excellent, excepting one or two officers who failed to look towards reviewing officer. One company passed guiding left.

The 2d regiment followed, eight companies equalized twenty front, Col. Dechert and staff of two saluting fairly. The 2d never appeared to better advantage, and it is doubtful if it ever made a more successful passage than upon this occasion. Unfortunately the regiment was in the old uniform, else the solid front of twenty would have given a still finer effect. Marching, although faulty in cadence, and step too short, was uniform; steadiness of men excellent; salutes open to improvement. Officers need instruction in manual of sword, several of whom we noticed carrying them with flat of blade instead of back against the shoulder. Alignments were almost perfect; a weak point, however, was the open ranks of all the companies. Distances were too great between companies, but more particularly between sixth and seventh. This was the 2d's first parade under Col. Dechert, and having been without a head for so long they certainly done very well.

The State Fencibles followed, Major Ryan and staff of 3 dismounted. The adjutant improperly marching on line and to the right of the major. Battalion paraded as four companies of twenty files. Salutes of all the officers while good on account of being prompt and in unison, were not excellent, as the position of the officers were constrained, and appeared almost awkward, the point of the blade being in most cases away around to the right. The alignments were the best of the day, though partaking entirely too much of the locked arms arrangement, instead of the touch of the elbow, ranks well closed and men steady. The step, however, while perfectly uniform was slow like that of the other organizations and in length was extremely bad, being even shorter than that of any of the others. Distances only fairly preserved particularly between third and fourth companies.

Battalion Weccac Legion followed, parading four companies equalized to a front of 24 men, Major John J. Denny, commanding. Salutes on part of most of the officers excellent. Distances fair between first and second, and third and fourth companies. Third and second too close. Alignments ragged to an extent; ranks very open in all companies; step inclined to be easy and free, and in this respect was better than some of the older organizations. Guides of two companies had failed to fix bayonets. This was the first appearance of the battalion, and allowances should be made. Taking all in all they presented an exceedingly creditable appearance.

Gray Invincibles followed with 2 officers and 45 men, being the only independent infantry company in the brigade, and not having changed to the U. S. fatigues appeared almost lost. Alignments admirable, but ranks too open. Officers saluted fairly. This company made one of the best wheels, from Broad street into Chestnut, of any in the line.

The Washington Grays, four companies with a front of 24 files, brought up the rear of the brigade. The first company waivered just previous to reaching the reviewing point, but quickly gaining the alignment, passed in very fair style. The other companies marched steadily with square fronts. The step, although slow in cadence, was the best of the day in respect to length. The salute of the captain commanding the battalion was hardly correct according to Upton, though sociable in appearance. Salutes of company officers generally accurate. Distances fairly preserved, but ranks entirely too open. The drum major failed to wheel his band out of line in front of the reviewing officer, at same time losing his distance and compelling it to almost mark time immediately after passing, altogether spoiling the effect of what would have been probably as fair a passage as any of the day. The battalion was uniformed in the artillery fatigue, which was in very favorable contrast to the other organizations. The improvement in the Phila. brigade is a marked one; whether it will be a permanent one or not remains to be seen. Many changes can yet be made in the militia laws of the State, which would tend to a still greater, and perhaps more lasting improvement. The yearly inspections of the 1st Brigade brought to a conclusion, as we may say, by the review of Nov. 23, not only the new organizations but the old have now to settle now to the real work of the season of 1878 and 1879 that of regimental and company drills. During the coming season we intend to make frequent visits to company armories, and closely watch the progress made in drill and discipline.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

We have received and will publish next week a criticism on battalion drill 1st regiment California N. G., a report of the parade 4th Brigade Pennsylvania (Pittsburg), and the official report of Maj. F. B. Chapman, I. R. P. 10th New York Brigade.

Lieut. Beebe, Gatling Battery N. 11th New York Brigade, has tendered the resignation of his office.

Capt. John B. Fradenburgh, Co. D, 13th New York, won the "Brigade medal" at the armory on Thanksgiving day. Score 21 15-36; 200 and 500 yards.

The city companies of the 21st New York (Poughkeepsie) held a full dress battalion drill on December 5.

Prof. A. C. Greene will lecture on phrenology, with illustrations, before Co. H, 13th New York, at the armory, on Tuesday, December 17, at 8 o'clock p. m. The lecture will be interspersed with music, singing and recitations.

The 22d New York were assembled for inspection at the armory on Friday, December 6, fatigue uniform, hairy marching order. Col. Porter made a close and rigid inspection of the uniform and equipment of each man.

On Wednesday evening, November 27, the board of officers of the 3d New York (Brooklyn) visited the house of Col. John Reiger and presented him with handsomely engrossed resolutions elegantly framed. Lieut.-Col. Bossert made the presentation speech.

The 13th New York (Brooklyn) will give its second entertainment, consisting of a grand militaire bouffe and promenade at its armory, Flatbush avenue, on Wednesday, December 11. A good time may be expected by the visitors.

The constitution, by-laws and rules of order of the 13th N. Y. Cadet Corps have been published in neat pamphlet form. The corps was organized in February, 1876; drills are held Friday evenings at the armory.

Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Wylie, Commissary-General of Ordnance S. N. Y., has been awarded the magnificent sword at the Cathedral fair, New York. He received 15,376 votes, and General Newton 10,766. Col. James Cavanagh, 69th New York, received 2,570 votes for the State sword to Capt. Sullivan's 2,348.

Priv. E. H. Birmingham, Co. F, 23d New York, won the "officers' cup" at Creedmoor on Thanksgiving day, 200 and 500 yards; score 41 out of the possible 70 points. The 100 and 150 yards medal was won by Priv. F. G. Fulgraf. 40 out of 50, and the 300 and 400 yards badge by Sergt. A. H. Groot, 37 out of 50.

The members of the 71st New York shot for the McAlpine trophy at Creedmoor Thanksgiving day, 200 yards, seven rounds. The best scores were as follows, highest possible 35 points: M. C. Moore, 25; Sergt. Stone, 24; Lieut. McClellan, 23; P. T. Selfe, 21; J. M. Walker, 18; J. H. Farrel, 15; P. T. Weather, 15.

The State of New York is far ahead of all others in this matter of musketry instruction; yet even she can boast of more ornamental than useful soldiers. In our country we have a small skeleton of a standing Army and a suspended extensive organization of National Guards in every State. But I feel safe in saying that these State troops, outside of New York State, are mere ornaments for festival purposes. They are armed for

the most part with weapons far behind other armies of the day, and know absolutely nothing of the inferior weapons they carry, and I doubt very much if there could be found ten men outside the regimental or company staff of many regiments of State troops who could dismount and assemble the locks of their rifles. I doubt if there are five men out of those ten men who can clearly explain the theory of the flight of the projectile. It may be said that it is asking too much of them, and that the rank and file are not expected to have this knowledge. They are expected to shoot, however, and I say that it is impossible for a man to shoot successfully who does not know the principles governing his shooting. Any man can burn powder and waste lead, but a man to shoot must know what he has to do and how to do it.—*Chago Field.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL must decline to decide points between officers and the men of their commands. No attention paid to fictitious signatures, unless accompanied by real name and address of writer.

HATFIELD, N. Y. CITY, asks: Did the 69th New York State militia, at any one time, parade 1,500 strong? 2d. Was Michael Corcoran ever colonel of the 69th N. Y. Volunteers? ANSWER.—1. No. 2. No.

NATIONAL CEMETERIES.—There are a hundred applications to every cemetery among the superintendents of national cemeteries. Under existing orders candidates, before final appointment, must serve a probationary term of six months. (See G. O. 37, of 1877.) There are four serving this term at the present time, the full number allowed by the order referred to, which has this week been modified by G. O. 85, so as to allow an increase of probationers to six.

REGULAR.—By the 3d section of the act of March 3, 1869 (Vol. 16, p. 334. Statutes at Large), the payment of bounties was transferred to the Second Auditor of the Treasury. Applications for blanks should therefore be made to him.

P. S. asks: 1. Is the Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Va., for regular officers of the Army or for any one who wishes to enter? 2. Can a noncommissioned person gain admission to West Point if he passed in everything else? 3. Where could a person learn military engineering? ANSWER.—1. The Artillery School is for the Army only. 2. "Impaired vision," from any cause, is a bar to admission to the Military Academy. 3. We know of no school except the Military Academy where military engineering is taught.

MILITARY CONVICTION asks: Is an enlisted man, sentenced to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be dishonorably discharged the service, and be confined at such military prisons as the reviewing authorities may direct, for the period of one year? Is he entitled to any transportation at the expiration of the sentence? Any other allowances? Fort Lincoln is the place designated as the place for confinement. ANSWER.—An enlisted man is not entitled to any transportation when he is discharged from a military prison. He is entitled only to the amount authorized to be paid for his prison labor, and to such clothing as is furnished him from the prison fund.

JOHN writes: I say that at the battle of Fair Oaks Gen. Heintzelman had command of two regiments. My friend claims that he did not. Which is correct? ANSWER.—General Heintzelman was in command of his own corps and Keyes' corps at the beginning of the battle of Fair Oaks. When General Sumner crossed the Chickahominy with his corps, he took charge, as the senior officer present, of his own corps and the two under Heintzelman. Your question was overlooked or it should have been answered before.

J. K. McG. asks: Referring to your reply to "Regular," in your issue of Nov. 23, relative to \$100 bounty under act of July 28, 1866, I would thank you to inform me whether a soldier who enlisted in September, 1865, and served his 3 years, would be entitled to the \$100 granted by said bill, or whether it is only intended to benefit those who served during the war? ANSWER.—Men who enlisted in the Army in September, 1865, are not entitled to the bounty granted by the bill of July 28, 1866. That bounty was intended for men who served during and before the close of the war.

H. M. asks: Could you please inform me per mail of the names of the officers and men serving in 1865 on the tug boat *Gladious*, attached as despatch boat to the S. Atlantic Squadron? ANSWER.—The Navy Register for January, 1865, shows the following officers attached to the tug *Gladious*, South Atlantic Blockading Squadron: Acting Ensign, Napoleon Broughton, commanding; Acting Master's Mate, Sidney W. Byram, Horace H. Eaton and Wm. C. Parker; Engineers, Acting 3d Assistant Jno. D. Williams, Geo. W. Beard and Augustus Stranb. None of these are now in the service excepting Mr. Beard, passed assistant engineer, now on the *Vandalia*, expected at Boston middle to 25th December. A list of the crew can only be obtained from the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, Navy Department, at Washington, by official application and stating the object in view; and then it will be a matter of discretion for the chief of that Bureau whether to furnish it or not. The Secretary of the Navy can answer as to the last known address of any of the officers of the *Gladious*, not now in the service, or as to any particular person, supposed to have been a part of her crew, sought after.

N. C. S. writes: Considerable discussion and difference of opinion has arisen, regarding the order published in your issue of Oct. 26, concerning the re-enlistment of married men of the N. C. Staff, some claiming that the N. C. S. does not belong to the regiment, but to the Army at large, and that it includes only the ordnance sergeants, commissary sergeants and hospital stewards. Others opine that it is the colonel's N. C. S., and in addition to the above named non-coms., includes the sergeant-major, quartermaster sergeant, and the chief and two principal musicians. As some of our staff are shortly to be joined in the H. B. of W., it is important that the question in dispute should be at once decided, and if you will take the responsibility of so doing, you will greatly oblige. ANSWER.—The "non-commissioned staff unattached to regiments," or the general non-commissioned staff, consists of the ordnance sergeants and commissary sergeants. The hospital stewards are not classed at the War Department either as general or regimental non-commissioned staff. The regimental non-commissioned staff consists of the sergeant-major, quartermaster-sergeant, chief musician, principal musician, chief trumpeter and saddle sergeant. After considerable discussion of the matter, it has been determined at the War Department that the matter of re-enlistments of married men, in regiments, either of non-commissioned officers or others, shall be left to the discretion of the commanding officers of regiments and companies. This for the reason that to refuse to re-enlist married men would deprive the regiments of some of their most valuable non-commissioned officers and men. The present law does not prohibit married men from being in the Army; it only prohibits women from accompanying troops as laundresses, and no provision is made for their support.

THE following Army nominations were sent to the Senate Dec. 4: Robert C. Walker, of Montana, to be paymaster in the Army. William L. Foulk to be captain in the 6th Cavalry. Sergeants Leroy E. Sebree and James A. Swift to be 2d lieutenants in the Signal Corps.

CAPTAIN C. A. DEMPSEY, of the 2d Infantry, with a guard of six soldiers, passed through Omaha, Neb., Dec. 4, with 17 Nez Percé prisoners, who came into Lapwai Agency, Idaho, in two parties, from Sitting Bull camp. They state that Sitting Bull has a great number of warriors, but the Nez Percés braves are treated as slaves by the Sioux and forced to do menial work. Captain Dempsey left Lewiston with his prisoners on Nov. 8 in a steamer, proceeded to Portland, Oregon, and to San Francisco and thence overland.

GEN. ROBERT C. BUCHANAN.

A RECORD of nearly half a century as an officer of the Army of the United States closed with the death of Colonel and Brevet Major-General Robert C. Buchanan, which took place at his residence in Washington on Friday, Nov. 29. When in 1830 Buchanan entered the Army as a brevet 2d lieutenant of the 4th Infantry, that regiment was commanded by Colonel Dunc. L. Clinch, and the Army by Major-General Alex. Macomb; Gaines and Scott were the brigadiers, Roger Jones the adjutant-general, Jesup quartermaster-general, George Gibson commissary-general, Chas. Gratiot commandant of the Corps of Engineers, and Geo. Bomford chief of the Ordnance Department. Very few of the names then borne on the Army Register are found there now, and of the companions of Buchanan's youth few indeed are left. The history of General Buchanan's service with the Army is told in the record of that service inscribed upon the tiles of the Adjutant-General's Office at Washington. That record is as follows:

Graduated from the U. S. Military Academy and appointed brevet 2d Lieutenant 4th Infantry, July 1, 1830; 2d Lieutenant 4th Infantry, July 1, 1830; 1st Lieutenant 4th Infantry, March 16, 1836; captain 4th Infantry, Nov. 1, 1838; lieutenant-colonel volunteers, Nov. 25, 1840; major 4th Infantry, Feb. 3, 1850; lieutenant-colonel 4th Infantry, Sept. 9, 1851; brigadier-general volunteers, from Dec. 30, 1862, to March 4, 1863; colonel 1st Infantry, Feb. 8, 1864; retired Dec. 31, 1870. (Breveted major May 8, 1846, for gallant and distinguished services in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma; lieutenant-colonel Sept. 8, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Molino del Rey; colonel Jan. 27, 1864, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Gaines' Mill, Va.; brigadier-general March 18, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Groton, Va., and major-general March 18, 1865, for gallant and distinguished services at the battles of Manassas and Fredericksburg, Va.)

Service—Joined regiment January, 1831, and served therewith in Louisiana to March 26, 1833; on recruiting service at Natchez, Miss., to January, 1834; with regiment in Louisiana and Mississippi to February, 1836; in Florida to March, 1836; Louisiana to July, 1836, and Florida to March, 1837; on leave to October 1, 1837; under orders and with regiment in Florida from Nov. 29, 1837, to May, 1838; in Alabama and Tennessee to December, 1838; on commission duty at Louisville, Ky., to March, 1839; with regiment at Fort Gibson, I. T., from March 23, 1839, to September, 1840; opening military road to Fort Smith, Ark., to January, 1841; at Fort Gibson, I. T., to March, 1841; on detached service at Little Rock, Ark., to April, 1841; on leave from April to December 1, 1841; with regiment in Florida from January 4 to August, 1842; at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., to May, 1844; in Louisiana to July, 1845; Texas to May, 1846, and in the war with Mexico to October, 1846; (commanding battalion of Maryland Vois. from Aug. 25, 1846, to July 27, 1847) on leave from Oct. 24, 1848, to June 1, 1849; with regiment at Fort Niagara, N. Y., to Aug. 19, 1850; on general recruiting service to July 5, 1852; en route to and with regiment in California to March, 1855; in command of District of Southern Oregon and Northern California from March 7 to July 18, 1856; on leave to April, 1857; on general recruiting service to July 1, 1859; on G. C. M. duty, awaiting orders and special duty at Washington, D. C., to Jan. 9, 1861; under orders to April, 1861; with regiment in Oregon from April 5 to September, 1861; in California to November, 1861; at Washington, D. C., to March, 1862; with Army of the Potomac to April, 1863; (commanding 1st Brigade, 2d Division, 5th Corps, from May, 1863, to March, 1865); assistant provost marshal general, chief mustering and disbursing officer, and superintendent volunteer recruiting service for the State of New Jersey, from April 29, 1865, to Nov. 6, 1866; commanding regiment in Louisiana from Dec. 6, 1864, to Aug. 25, 1865; absent on sick leave to Dec. 1, 1865; member of military commission at Washington, D. C., to Jan. 26, 1866; member of board to examine firearms from Jan. 30 to July, 1866; awaiting action upon proceedings of board and under special orders of the Secretary of War to January, 1867; commissioner to examine claims of the State of Iowa to December, 1867; in command of the District and Department of Louisiana to March 31, 1869; commanding regiment at Fort Wayne, Mich., from April 6, 1869, to June 28, 1870; at Fort Porter, N. Y., to Dec. 15, 1870, when transferred to list of supernumeraries. Retired from active service Dec. 31, 1870, and unemployed to Nov. 29, 1878, when he died at Washington, D. C.

Worn out at last in the honorable discharge of duty, General Buchanan was retired in 1870, at his own request, and has since reposed quietly at Washington waiting in patience and hope for his final summons to join the friends of earlier days who had gone before him.

He was born in Maryland, near Washington, in February, 1811. The most of his early youth was spent in Washington. His mother was a sister of Mrs. John Quincy Adams, and during the administration of Mr. A. A. A. Adams young Buchanan was much at the White House. He was only fifteen years of age when he received his appointment as cadet. In the 4th Infantry, to which he was originally assigned, Buchanan remained for thirty-four years, holding every grade among the commissioned officers up to and including that of lieutenant-colonel. Two only of the officers who were in the 4th Infantry in 1830 are now alive. In 1854 Colonel Buchanan was in command at Fort Humboldt, California. Capt. U. S. Grant was serving at the same post when he resigned his commission in the Army. Col. Buchanan, by his action in the matter of Capt. Grant's resignation, was the direct cause of the most wonderful career that has ever marked the course of any man in America. It is hard to say what would have occurred, but the probabilities are that had Capt. Grant remained in the Army until the breaking out of the Civil war, the peculiar circumstances which called him into notice would not have occurred, and however much of reputation he might have made, he would not probably have made the career which he did.

The class which graduated at West Point in 1830 contained a number of young men who became celebrated not only as soldiers, but as engineers, clergymen, lawyers and poets. The lamented Basinger, who was the last officer to fall at Dade's Massacre in Florida in 1835; Simon Drum, who fell at the storming of Chapultepec; Dr. Francis Vinton, Jas. H. Prentiss, one of the greatest wits of the age; Prince John Magruder; Moriweather Clark; Lloyd Beall; John H. K. Burgwin, who fell at Taos, and Col. Geo. W. Patten were all of this class.

Shortly after the close of the Mexican war, Colonel Buchanan married Miss Winder, a grand-daughter of the late Governor Lloyd of Maryland. She was a sister of Lieut. Charles S. Winder, of the 3d Artillery, the young officer who was promoted to a captaincy in the 10th Infantry in 1855 for his gallant conduct on board the ill-fated steamer *San Francisco*, which was wrecked off Cape Hatteras in that year.

General Buchanan has left no children. He was living very quietly at Washington, and on Tuesday evening last he complained to some gentlemen who were spending the evening with him, of a curious pain in his head. Nothing was thought of it however until the next day, when Dr. Morris of the Army was called in, but he did not think the case a critical one until Thursday; and even on the night of that day the doctor had great hopes of a recovery. At midnight the General was sleeping quietly, it was supposed, but he was so very quiet about two o'clock in the morning that Mrs. Buchanan became alarmed, and upon examination she found that breathing had ceased and he had passed quietly away.

The funeral services were conducted from the Church of the Incarnation on Saturday, Nov. 30, and the remains were laid by the side of the General's mother at the beautiful Rock Creek Cemetery, the following named gentlemen acting as pall-bearers: Gen. Humphreys, chief engineer; Gen. Brice, late paymaster-general; Gen. Macfeely, commissary general; Judge Hunt, Court of Claims; Gen. Crane, assistant surgeon-general; Gen. Drum, assistant adjutant-general; Major Bates; Col. T. J. Lee, late of the engineers.

Thus has passed away one more of the old Army, who had no superior for personal gallantry, courtly bearing and perfect integrity. His service in the Army was long and honorable. He was a strict disciplinarian, but always just. During the Mexican war he was considered as among the most prominent of those of his grade.

Soon after the close of the Mexican war, and while Gen. Buchanan was still a captain, a vacancy occurred in the Inspector-General's Department. It was hard to decide between Buchanan and Col. Duncan as to who should get what was then considered the best appointment in the Army, but the latter carried off the prize. Job Duncan, as he was familiarly called, had no superior either in his own or any other grade in the Army, and the friends of both the competitors were satisfied. Duncan lived but a few months after his promotion, while nearly thirty years more were allotted to his friendly rival.

GEN. RENO'S DEATH.

FORT LINCOLN, D. T., Nov. 17.

To the Editor of the Chicago Tribune:

HAVING noticed in the papers of the last few days various and contradictory statements touching the death of Major-Gen. Reno at the battle of South Mountain, I deem it a matter of duty, not only in the interest of truth, but because Gen. Reno was a classmate and warm personal friend of mine, to give to the public a correct and circumstantial account of his death.

Of the statements which I have seen thus far, that of Gen. J. D. Cox is the nearest correct; but yet he errs in saying that Gen. Reno was killed by a shot from the enemy's skirmishers.

Gen. Reno arrived at my position on the crest of the mountain between sunset and dark; the battle had then virtually ceased although there was still some desultory firing, and I had turned Durrell's battery and a section of Capt. Cook's 8th Massachusetts Battery upon the enemy moving against Hooker's column, then pushing up the ridge north of the Hagerstown road. It was whilst directing this fire that Gen. Reno arrived, and, after remaining some ten or fifteen minutes, he mounted his horse with the (apparent) intention of returning to his own headquarters. Instead, however, of descending the hill directly, he crossed the road and entered a wood occupied by a portion of my division (a Massachusetts regiment, I think), and, unfortunately, he entered just in front of his line.

At that moment a volley was fired by the enemy from a wood beyond an open space of four or five hundred yards which lay between the opposing lines, a kind of parting volley, for they fired but once, and had entirely disappeared from the field when I arrived shortly after with a section of artillery.

In the meantime the troops were resting after their hard day's work; but that volley, so sudden and so unexpected, brought them to their feet, and caused a good deal of unnecessary and random firing; and it was then that one of my staff (either Capt. Mighell or Capt. Rawolle, I think the former), noticed that Gen. Reno was reeling in his saddle, and, hastening to his assistance, had him taken from his horse and carried back to the battery. On seeing me, he said, "Sam, I'm a dead man." I said something to the effect that I hoped not, and that he would soon be as well as ever; but he seemed to realize the true character of his wound better than I, and only repeated, "I'm a dead man." He was then taken toward the hospital, which was near by, but he died before reaching it. A careful examination of the wound was made by Surgeon Cutter, who had belonged to the General's staff, and also (I think) by Surgeon A. T. Watson, medical director of my division. The result of this examination left no doubt as to the fact that the bullet had entered from the rear, and, passing through a miniature picture (of Mrs. Reno) which was in his watch-fob, had emerged from the front. On this point I remember distinctly that Surgeon Cutter (if not Surgeon Watson also) was decided in his opinion that the shot was an accidental one from our own troops, delivered near at hand. Indeed, Gen. Reno was himself aware of this melancholy fact, and referred to it in feeling terms when being taken from his horse, as the officer before mentioned reported at the time.

Such, in short, is the sad story of the death of the gallant and chivalrous Jesse L. Reno, whose last words were: "I can be no longer with my men; let them know that I will still be with them in spirit." Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. STURGIS, Colonel 7th Cav., Bvt. Maj.-Gen.

Apropos to this a correspondent of the JOURNAL

writes: General Reno is not the only General on the Federal side that is said to have lost his life at the hands of his own men. General Nathaniel Lyon (according to the statement of an officer who claimed that he knew of what he talked about), received his death wound in a similar manner. Lyon was well known to be a "martinet," and in fact while captain of Company B, 2d U. S. Infantry, stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, in 1860, did one or two acts verging on the tyrannical. His reported flogging of volunteers for stealing a few chickens, raised strong feelings against him in the ranks.

A LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT SCHWATKA.

DEPOT ISLAND, HUDSON BAY, B. A., }

August 9, 1878. }

Chief Justice Daly, President American Geographical Society, New York:

DEAR SIR: The vessel *Eothén*, with the Franklin search party on board, arrived here yesterday, and after consultation with the natives here, I have determined to make this place my quarters for the winter.

One of the Nuchillas, from whom Captain Barry received the Franklin information, is dead, and the other is reported at Whale Point, to which place I shall send him word to join me as soon as I have time. Depot Island is about half way between Cape Fullerton and the mouth of Chesterfield Inlet, and that shore, about one hundred miles in length, is very poorly surveyed, if it can be said to be surveyed at all. On the Admiralty chart it is represented as an almost straight line dotted with a few islands, while in sight at the place alone I find two inlets from ten to thirty miles in depth. I shall survey this during this autumn or winter.

When I meet the missing Nachilla, should our route take us to King William Land, I shall go by the way of Chesterfield Inlet, Quoich River, across to Back's Fish River, and thence down it to the island; should it take us to Boothia, or in that direction, I shall go by Roe's Welcome, Repulse Bay, etc.—the old route of Rae to the western coast of the Melville Peninsula. I desire very much to be able to return so as to survey from Igloolik along the eastern coast of Fox Channel. The natives' accounts would show that the northern portion of this channel expands rapidly, forming an immense bay connected to Hudson Bay by the Fox Channel, with the Gulf of Boothia by the Fury and Hecla Strait. There is also a passage from this bay to Cumberland Inlet by a river to Lake Kennedy, thence by another river flowing east to Irvine Inlet (Hall), which empties into Northumberland Inlet. This latter passage forms an island out of the Meta Incognita Land.

The prospects of the expedition are favorable, and at the least, much unknown country can be mapped.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK SCHWATKA,
Lieutenant Third United States Cavalry, Commanding
Franklin Search Party.

MILITARY SERVICE INSTITUTION.—A meeting of the Military Service Institute was held at Governor's Island, on Saturday last, Nov. 30, at 1:30 o'clock P. M., pursuant to the call published in the JOURNAL of last week. The purpose of the meeting was, the electing an Executive Council, consisting of 14 members, who, for convenience, were chosen from among the officers now stationed in this City or neighborhood, which includes West Point. The balloting was pretty widely distributed throughout the Army, but the final result showed that the members had selected a council which will give general satisfaction. The officers of the Institution, including the Executive Council just elected, are as follows:

President—Major-Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock.

Vice-Presidents—Brevet Major-Gen. George W. Getty, Colonel Third Artillery; Brevet Major-Gen. David S. Stanley, Colonel Twenty-second Infantry; Brevet Major-Gen. Z. B. Tower, Colonel of Engineers; Brevet Major-Gen. James B. Fry, Colonel and A. A.-G.; Brevet Major-Gen. Wesley Merritt, Colonel Fifth Cavalry.

Corresponding Secretary—Brevet Brig.-Gen. Theophilus F. Rodenbough, Colonel U. S. A.

Recording Secretary—Brevet Lieut.-Col. Guido N. Lieber, Major and J. A.

Treasurer—Brevet Brig.-Gen. Nathan W. Brown, Colonel and A. P. M. General.

Vice-Treasurer—Brevet Major Joseph P. Sanger, Captain First Artillery.

Executive Council—The Presidents and Vice-Presidents ex-officio. For the Staff—Col. N. H. Davis, Inspector-General's Department; N. W. Brown, Pay Department; M. D. L. Simpson, Subsistence Department; J. M. Cayler, Medical Department; Lieut.-Col. A. J. Perry, Quartermaster's Department; Majors G. N. Lieber, Judge Advocate, and T. J. Treadwell, Ordnance Department. For the Line—T. L. Crittenden, of the Seventeenth Infantry; Lieut.-Col. R. B. Ayres, Third Artillery, and T. H. Neill, Sixth Cavalry; Major Z. R. Bliss, Twenty-fifth Infantry; Capt. E. M. Heyl, Fourth Cavalry, and J. P. Sanger, First Artillery. For the Retired List—Col. T. F. Rodenbough, U. S. A.

At the meeting letters were read from President Hayes and Secretary of War McCrary, both of whom are honorary members of the institution. A letter was also read from Major-Gen. Hancock, explaining his absence from the meeting. He calls attention to the fact that Governor's Island was long inhabited by the first Hollanders to arrive in this country, and suggests the advisability of locating the rooms of the institution permanently on the island. Letters were also read from Gen. Merritt, and from officers now on duty in the far West, in which they express their approval of the work contemplated by the institution, and predict its ultimate success.

It was moved and seconded, and unanimously carried, that Major-Gen. John M. Schofield, Superintendent of the West Point Academy, be invited to prepare and read, at the January meeting, a paper showing the necessity for, as well as the aims and intentions of the institution. A committee of five, of which Gen. James B. Fry is Chairman, was selected to call upon Gen. Schofield and make known to him the wishes of the institution. The meeting then adjourned.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

IRON reports that there is to be built at Chatham, a torpedo ram, which will be a remarkable novelty in naval architecture. In section she will resemble a pegtop, the upper deck being convex and armored, and she will be surmounted with a superstructure which will give her the appearance of a cigar-ship. She is to be fitted with a hollow keel. But the most curious feature in the design will be the torpedo arrangements, it being intended to project a Whitehead through her ram about 10 feet below the water-line. She will also have two torpedo ports on each side, amidships.

Two more of the second-class torpedo boats, built by Messrs. Thorneycroft for the English Government, has been successfully tried on the measured mile in Stokes Bay. They are propelled by compound engines, capable of developing something like 90 horses. But while with other engines the water is circulated through the condenser by means of centrifugal pumps worked by independent engines, in these boats both the pumps and the auxiliary machinery is dispensed with. A circulating valve is fitted on the bottom of the little vessels. This scoops up the water, and the velocity at which the boats are driven forces the water through the condenser without further assistance. The hulls are made of steel, the under-water portion being galvanized. At the trial the draught was 1 foot forward and 3 feet 3 inches aft, which may be regarded as the normal load line. In the case of one (No. 52) the pressure of steam in the boiler was 119 lbs, the revolutions 541, the vacuum 24 inches, and the speed realized 15·116 knots per hour. The trial of the other (No. 51) gave substantially the same results, the revolutions being 523, and the mean speed 15·107 knots. Messrs. Thorneycroft have eight more second class boats of the same type to complete. They are completing nine torpedo boats of the first-class, making, with the *Lightning* and two which are awaiting trial at Portsmouth, a dozen altogether.

DURING the past six months nine vessels of various tonnage and power have been launched and added to the strength of the English Navy, and at the present time there are seventeen others under construction or about to be built at the various Government dockyards and by private firms.

PRINCE HENRY of Prussia, the German Crown Prince's second son, is now on board the German corvette *Prince Adalbert*, serving his time as a naval cadet, in order that he may be thoroughly well qualified for the post of German admiral, which he is one day to fill when the proper time for such promotion comes.

THE GOVERNMENT of India, recognizing the value of war rockets in such operations as the possible campaign in Afghanistan, have requisitioned the Royal Laboratory Department, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, to supplement former issues by a supply of rockets larger and more powerful than those in ordinary use. The department is, accordingly, manufacturing rockets, the largest in the service—6 inches in diameter, and its length is nearly 4 feet. The bursting charge in the head, in accordance with the latest improvements, will consist of gun-cotton, occupying about one-third of the case, the remainder being filled with the firing composition.

RUSSIA has now eleven "railroad schools" with ninety teachers, where instruction is given in religion, the Russian language, geography, history, mathematics, physics, mechanics, railroad engineering, natural sciences, telegraph, kook-keeping, drawing, orthography, mechanical trades, singing, and gymnastics. Last year these schools had 1,260 students. In eight years since the opening of the first school 4,843 pupils have studied in these establishments. The schools are attached to railroads, which have to pay about 2d. 4d. per mile of line annually for their support.

HERR KRUPP has lately completed a 40 centimetre, or 16-inch gun. The most powerful piece of ordnance which had previously been constructed in the factory at Essen, or, indeed, in any other Continental workshop, was the 35 5 centimetre Krupp gun, which was tried in July last on the ranges at Meppen, with very satisfactory results. While the total weight of the 35 5-centimetre piece is about 50 English tons, that of the 40 centimetre gun is nearly 70 tons—the length of the former piece being 29 feet, and of the latter 33 feet. The heaviest projectile launched by the 35 5-centimetre gun—the steel or hardened iron shell, namely, used for firing against armor—weighs 1,155 lbs.; while the steel projectile discharged from the 40-centimetre gun weighs 1,606 lbs.; the charge used with the former consisting of 253 lbs., with the latter of 352 lbs., of prismatic powder. The muzzle velocity imparted to the projectile, is the same in both guns, being very nearly 500 metres per second; but while at a short range the 35 5-centimetre gun sends its shell through 24 inch., and at 2,000 yards through 18 inch. of iron armor, the new gun will give at the same ranges a penetration, it is calculated, of 28 and 31 inches respectively. It appears, therefore, that while the weight of the gun is augmented by about one-third its penetrative power is only increased by about one sixth.

FIELD FORTIFICATIONS.—Lieut.-General Brialmont, of the French army, has lately published a work, *Fortification du Champ de Bataille*, which he tells us is a work which has arrived at maturity, a complete treatise which will not require any modifications to be introduced into it for a long time, because the author has taken into account the results obtained during the most recent wars and in the latest experiments carried out in France, Germany, Austria, and Belgium. He concludes that the most rational profile for the normal shelter trench will consist of an excavation 1 ft. 8 in. deep, and 6 ft. 6 in. wide, the earth obtained from this trench being filled up in front in a mound 2 ft. 6 in.

high, and 1 ft. 6 in. thick at the top, a beam 1 ft. 3 in. wide being left between the covering mound of earth and the trench. As to arming the men with entrenching tools he concludes that "experience has proved that if the tools necessary for throwing up such works are carried in wagons or other conveyances they will generally arrive too late to be usefully employed, and that therefore they must be carried by the men themselves." Every peloton of 64 men to be provided with 24 short-handled spades, 4 pickaxes, 12 small axes, 12 bill-hooks, 8 saws, and 4 mauls. A parapet exposed to artillery fire should be, he thinks, 10 ft. thick, when constructed of sandy soil; 18 ft. thick, when composed of ordinary soil; and about 20 ft. thick, when built of clayey earth. The depth of the ditch of a field work should never, General Blalmont recommends, exceed 9 feet; as the task of throwing up the earth dug out from the bottom of the ditch will then become excessively laborious. Where there is no berm, the minimum width of the top of the ditch may be reduced to 8 feet, and the banquette made much narrower than formerly, 14 feet for single and 2½ feet for double. The changes from former rules result from the rapidity of modern fire, a narrow ditch giving shelter for only a small proportion of the assaulting party, the remainder being exposed to fire on the counterscarp. The interior slope, connecting the banquette with the crest, should have a slope of 45 deg., as with such a slope in front of them the defenders will be able at the moment of actual assault to readily move up on to the superior slope, or top of the parapet, and there repulse the attack with the point of the bayonet.

THE EXPENDITURE OF AMMUNITION.—The Russian *Imperial* adds some facts to those published in the Moscow *Gazette*, concerning the expenditure of ammunition by the Russians. According to this account the Russian artillery used 204,928 charges, and the infantry and cavalry 10,057,764 cartridges, which are distributed as follows: Field Artillery—1,288 guns, 114,879 shells, 43,029 shrapnels, 1,091 cases of grape shot; together, 158,900 charges, or 123.46 per gun. Siege Artillery—151 guns, 23,905 shells, 24,005 bombs, 4,174 cases of grape shot; together, 53,264 charges, or 346.12

per gun. Small arms—65,000 Berdan rifles; 8,625,364 cartridges, or 45.75 each; 37,000 cavalry carbines; 1,251,764 or 33.73 each; 217,000 Krucka rifles, 5,692,20 or 26.22 each; 10,000 revolvers, 88,516 cartridges or 5.42 each; together, 335,000 small arms of all descriptions, which discharged 10,057,764 cartridges, or 30 each. According to the Russian *Imperial*, the number of troops engaged in actual fighting was 283,000 infantry, 37,000 cavalry, or 319,000 men, with 1,288 field guns, making 39 guns to 1,000 men. The large number of cartridges, viz., 1,251,764 from 37,000 rifles, expended by the cavalry, demonstrates the important part played by the cavalry during marches, and in its employment as infantry on fields of battle. The Turks are reported to have lost, in Europe and Asia, nearly 150,000 dead or wounded, which would indicate that about sixty-seven cartridges were required to place one man hors de combat, taking no account of artillery. The proportion of rifle firing to artillery fire is as 49 to 1.

A BALE of cotton presented by Miss Clara Conway, to the Memphis Cotton Exchange, is being sold and is being sold up and down through the South to raise funds for the family of Lieut. Benner, and several thousand dollars have already been gathered in this way.

Chew JACKSON'S BEST Sweet Navy Tobacco

MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages and Births FIFTY CENTS each and the signature and address of the party sending must accompany the notice.]

ATWOOD-KING.—In Saint Louis, November 23d, by the Rev. James Brooks, D.D., Brevet Major EDWIN B. ATWOOD, and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army, to NETTIE M., eldest daughter of Richard King, Reg. of Corpus Christi, Texas.

CARR-CAMP.—Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Epiphany Church, Washington, D. C., by the Rev. William Parrot, D. D., Captain CAMILLE C. CARR, 1st U. S. Cavalry, to Mrs. MARIE C. CAMP. No cards.

BIRTH.

MILLS.—At Paris, France, Nov. 19, 1878, the wife of Bvt. Lt. Col. Anson Mills, 10th Cavalry, of a son.

DIED.

MIDDLETON.—At Fort Porter, N. Y., on Friday night, November 29th, 1878, of diphtheritic croup, PASEMORE, son of Asst. Surgeon P. Middleton, U. S. Army, at the age of six years and one month.

IN MEMORIAM—BY THE POET LARIAT.

(Geo. A. Gordon, Major 5th U. S. Cavalry, died Oct. 26, 1878.)

Why is it the arms of the Fifth to-day bear

A badge that is sombre in hue?

Why is it the hills of their sabres so fair?

Are shrouded with crape, from our view?

Why fails their old flag, from its eminence high,

And droops at the half mast so still?

Why shrieks the old eagle with pitiful cry,

As he soars over the Western hill?

Oh! does not you riderless steed, draped in black,
Lung in housing of sable and gloom,
And the old dragon boots, hanging empty and slack
From the saddle where death has made room,
Denote that a chieftain his station has changed,
And moved in advance of his band,
To those fields where the seraphs in glory are ranged,
To welcome him home to their land.

The Fifth's veteran roster to-day shows a blank,
Which the loved name of Gordon once filled;
And the glittering leaves that encircled his rank,
Lie withered and faded and chilled.
The flag 'neath whose folds his bright laurels were won
Is now draping his motionless form;
For the Fifth's truest hero and noblest son,
Was mustered in heaven this morn.

Never more will the reveille bugle awake
Their hero, at dawning of day,
Never more on his ear will the sweet music break
Of his steed's old familiar neigh;
Never more will the "charge" light with pleasure his face
As of old in the days that are gone;
He has answered the "recall" with soldierlike grace,
Which from heaven was plaintively borne.

Once again must the Fifth place another loved name
On that tablet to memory reared,
Where the names of her sons shine in glorious fame
When from roster and rolls they are cleared.
So, high, where the names of "Bache," "Crittenden,"
"Brown,"
"Burns," "Almy," and "Rodgers" are seen,
She must place that of Gordon beneath her proud crown
And see that 'tis ever kept green.



B. KITTREDGE & CO., Cincinnati, O., Dealers in Guns, Pistols and the Addenda, ASK ATTENTION TO A NEW SHOT GUN.

The Colt Arms Co. have been some years engaged in preparations to make Double Guns, and the result is that they are now furnishing the most desirable breech-loading guns that have yet been offered. They are more accurately made than guns are or can be made by the best French, Belgian or English makers. Each part on one side is an exact counterpart of the same part on the other. This is not true of the best guns imported. This is best explained by saying, that with the Colt Arms Co., the machinery makes the gun. With the best foreign makers, the most that can be said is, that by machinery, we do a few "odd jobs." With them machinery assists the gun maker; with the Colt Co. the workman tends the machine. The barrels are by a process never before used—**soldered with hard solder.** This makes it absolutely impossible for the barrels to jar apart by frequent and continuous shooting. All gun-makers and sportsmen of much experience know liable this is to happen to the finest English guns. The best English makers have not the art of soldering with hard solder. They use only soft solder, or "tinman's solder" (composed of lead and tin). The parts of the Colt Gun are interchangeable. If a mainspring

is broken, or a screw lost, you have only to send to the factory, or a dealer in the arm; the part sent you by mail is sure to fit, and the expense is inconsiderable. In no other country has such precision ever been even ventured upon. These guns are all thoroughly tested at the factory, and they are as good shooting guns as it is possible to make. They are much less in price than the imported guns. Come and see them, or order on approval. This means we will forward the gun C. O. D., permitting two days for trial, by depositing the amount of our bill and their charges with the Express Co. before the two days expire, if you return the gun in good order they will refund to you, less the freight both ways. We have also Remington and Parker's Double breech-loaders, Remington's Single breech-loaders, Remington's Saloon and Hunting breech-loading rifles. A full variety of Belgian and English breech and muzzle-loaders, and from the lowest prices to the best that can be had. An extended assortment of implements, gunpowder, Tatham's soft and chilled shot, shells (brass and paper), glass balls, bogard traps, etc. WE ARE THE ONLY AGENTS WEST OF NEW YORK FOR SHARPS RIFLES. For prices and further details correspond with us.

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[New York Hera'd, Monday, Oct. 7, 1878]
The Washington Marksman's Wonderful Score.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 5, 1878.

Joseph Partello's score of 234 out of a possible
225 is the theme of discussion and the subject of
admiration throughout sporting circles here in
the national capital. The modest clerk of the
War Department suddenly finds himself a lion of
immense proportions. Subjoined are diagrams of
the three targets made by Mr. Partello. They
show wonderful shooting throughout. At 80 yards he opened with a one o'clock "bull," about
eight inches in, but did not group his succeeding
shots in any particular order until he reached
the ninth, which he put to the right of the true
centre, landing the tenth in the exact centre, the
eleventh a little to the left and the twelfth again
to the right. At 900 yards he opened with a ten
o'clock "bull" well in, and grouped his second,
third and fourth to the right of the centre. The
most remarkable thing on this target is the string
of shots from the upper edge of the eye down the
centre. These are the eighth, ninth, tenth and
eleventh of the string, with the twelfth a few
inches to the left. It was on the next shot—the
thirteenth—that he got outside the eye, scoring a
centre. It will be remarked that all but two of
the shots on this target are on the right half of
the target. At 1,000 yards he opened with a five
o'clock "bull" about six inches in, placing the
second about six inches to the left of the first. At
the third he almost put his bullet on the true centre.
The two shots high left are the fourth and
eighth. The fourteenth was a "nippier" at two
o'clock, showing the same tendency as at 900 yards
to drift to the right. Altogether the score is one
that is not likely to be equalled for some time.

THE BEST SCORE ON RECORD.
EXTRAORDINARY SHOOTING IN WASHINGTON.—MR. PARTELLO, OF THE COLUMBIA RIFLE ASSOCIATION, MAKES 41 OUT OF A MAXIMUM OF 45 BULL'S-EYES.

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Reference—The Army Register.

Improvement of Pocomoke River, Md.

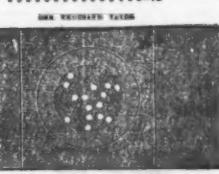
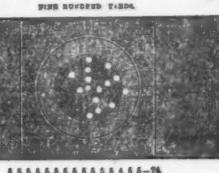
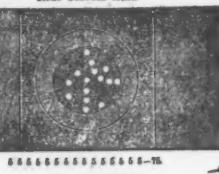
U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE, BALTIMORE, MD., November 28, 1878.

PROPOSALS for dredging near Snow Hill, in Pocomoke River, Maryland, will be received until noon of December 18, 1878, and opened immediately thereafter.

Specifications, terms of proposals, and any desired information, to be had on application at this office. WM. P. CRAIGHILL, Major of Engineers.

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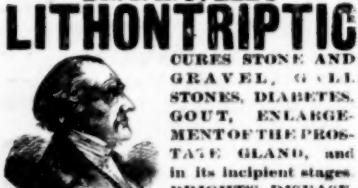
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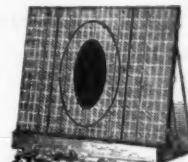
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